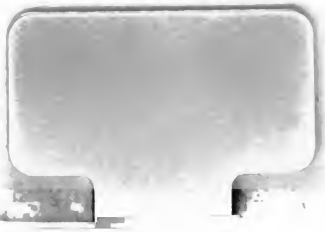

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THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRES OF LONDON and DUBLIN.

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THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRES OF LONDON and DUBLIN,

From the Year 1730 to the preſent Time.

To which is added,

An ANNUAL REGISTER

Of all the Plays, &c. performed at the THEATRES-ROYAL in London, from the Year 1712.

With Occaſional NOTES and ANECDOTES,

By Mr. VICTOR,

Late one of the Managers of the Theatre-Royal in Dublin.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed for T. DAVIES, in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; R. GRIFFITHS, T. BECKET, and P. A. DE HONDT, in the Strand; G. WOODFALL, at Charing-Croſs; J. COOTE, in Pater-noſter-row; and G. KEARSLY, in Ludgate-ſtreet.

M DCC LXI.

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To His Grace the

DUKE of DORSET.

My LORD,

I Had a very early Ambition to recommend myſelf to your Grace's Patronage: in my Poem on the Arrival of the late PRINCE OF WALES from *Hanover*, (which I had the Honour to preſent to his Royal Highneſs at *St. James's*) I attempted to draw the Characters of the principal Nobility of *England*, amongſt whom your GRACE ſtood apparently my favourite Portrait.

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Three Years after, my Affairs carried me over to *Ireland*, where I had the Pleaſure to find your GRACE the VICEROY. There my firſt Impreſſions were greatly improved, by the illuſtrious Character the LORD LIEUTENANT had ſo univerſally obtained. There I found your GRACE the PROMOTER of the LINEN BOARD. and by your appropriating a Fund of twenty thouſand Pounds a Year for its Eſtabliſhment, it is now become not only the Staple Manufacture, but, by the Extent of its Exports, the chief Revenue of that Kingdom.

Thus, like a wiſe and diſintereſted GOVERNOR, your GRACE opened a Scene of *future* Wealth and Happineſs to that Nation; as Plans of public Good, the beneficial

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neficial Conſequences of which are to deſcend to POSTERITY, can only be ſuggeſted, and carried into Execution, by a great and truly PATRIOT Mind.

But ſuch Conduct was due to your GRACE'S REPUTATION; a CHARACTER early raiſed, and nobly ſupported, by that ſingular and unblemiſhed Integrity, which ſo powerfully recommended you to the beſt of MONARCHS.

I have the Honour to preſent this Book to your GRACE, not only as an Offering of my Reſpect, but as a Debt of Duty, having had the Happineſs of being under your Care and Protection.

The powerful Patronage, which the DUKE and DUCHESS OF DORSET conferred

red on the Theatre, was the ſure Means of eſtabliſhing its Succeſs; this Hiſtory therefore is, with PROPRIETY, as well as GRATITUDE, addreſſed to your GRACE, by,

My LORD,

Your GRACE's moſt obliged,

Devoted Servant,

King-ſtreet,]
Feb. 7, 1761.

BENJAMIN VICTOR.

THE

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HISTORY

OF THE

THEATRES

OF

LONDON and DUBLIN.

MY ingenious Friend the late COLLEY CIBBER Eſq. Comedian and Poet Laureat, has given us a very valuable entertaining Tract, called, An APOLOGY FOR HIS LIFE, which contains an hiſtorical View of the Stage during his own Time; a Work that has been univerſally read, and

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juſtly admired. He has cloſed that uſeful Book with the following Paragraph:

" What Commotions the Stage fell " into the following Year, or from what " Provocations the greateſt Part of the " Actors revolted, and ſet up for them- " ſelves in the Little Houſe in the *Hay-* " *market*, lies not within the Promiſe of " my Title-page to relate: Or as it " might ſet ſome Perſons living in a light " they poſſibly might not chuſe to be ſeen " in, I will rather be thankful for the invo- " luntary Favour they have done me, " than trouble the Public with private " Complaints of fancied or real Injuries."

That happy Period of theatrical Succeſs, and good Management, from the Year 1712 to 1730, has been juſtly celebrated

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lebrated by Mr. *Cibber*; and as, from my Acquaintance with the three Managers, I was, ſome Part of that Time, a Witneſs of their Proceedings; it is within the Promiſe of my Title Page to relate ſome of the Tranſactions omitted, and thoſe that ſucceeded; I have been often ſolicited to give the Public this Supplement; I have now Leiſure to purſue it; and ſhall proceed with all imaginable Candor.

Mr. *Booth* having been confined by an unconquerable Diſeaſe, from the Year 1728 to the Year 1732; after the vain Efforts of four or five Years, it was not to be wonder'd at that he deſpair'd of ever returning to the Stage; — and as the Patent had been juſt then renewed to the three Managers for twenty-one Years, it was very natural for a Man,

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who, like *Booth*, had contracted a Love for Money, to turn his Thoughts upon a Purchaſer; and the following lucky Accident preſented itſelf. — Juſt before the Death of Mr. *Wilks*, the late JOHN HIGHMORE Eſq. a Gentleman poſſeſſed of an Eſtate of eight hundred Pounds a Year, offered himſelf (by way of Frolic for one Night) to play the Part of *Lothario*, prompted to that Extravagance by a Wager at *White*'s, of one hundred Pounds, which he had made with the late Lord *Limerick*; the Managers readily accepted the Propoſal; and, beſides the Benefit of the greateſt Receipt they had ever known to a ſtock Play, (as the Stage was crowded) Mr. *Highmore* made them a Preſent of the rich Suit he made up for the Character.

There

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There are many Perſons now living who ſaw him on the Stage, can bear Witneſs with me, that this unhappy Gentleman had not one Requiſite for an Actor; and yet if his Vanity would have ſuffered him to have ended his Frolic with his firſt Night's Performance, there were Numbers of his Auditors, who would never have been perſuaded but his acting of *Lothario* was ſuperior to *Booth*'s! It was, no doubt, thoſe bad Judges among his Acquaintance, who flattered him into repeating the Folly; and from that to other Characters, as *Hotſpur*, *Polydore*, &c. 'till he was in Danger of obtaining a Cure from ſome Part of his Audience, who thought themſelves injured, inſtead of being entertained.

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Mr. *Booth*, who was a Man of quick Penetration, ſoon fixed his Eye upon this Gentleman for a Purchaſer of his Share of the new Patent; and from my Intimacy with both thoſe Gentlemen, I was the Perſon who had the Misfortune to be ſingled out by Mr. *Booth* to make the Propoſal to Mr. *Highmore*. As I then thought it doing a mutual Service to both Parties, without the leaſt Heſitation (one Morning when alone with him at his own houſe) I told him, Mr. *Booth* had requeſted me to inform him of his Deſire to part with his Share of the new Patent, by which the Purchaſer would become a Manager, and third Sharer, with Mr. *Cibber* and the Widow *Wilks*, who had juſt then appointed the late Mr. *Ellis* the Painter, to be her Deputy. I well remember Mr. *Highmore* had

had no ſooner heard the Propoſal, than he replied—" *Ah, ha! and have they thought* " *of it at laſt. I really expected to have* " *heard from ſome of them on this Subject.*" This Reply to the Propoſal will, I hope, convince my Reader, that no Arguments were neceſſary to perſuade him into the Purchaſe. To be brief, an Appointment was then made for an Interview with Mr. *Booth* on that Buſineſs, at which I was preſent; and after two or three Meetings, the large Sum of *Two thouſand five hundred Pounds* was agreed to be paid for *one half* only of Mr. *Booth*'s third Share of his Patent *! As the Patentees had, for the pre-

 ceding

* Five Thouſand Pounds was demanded for the whole Share. Mr. *Highmore* (deſirous to be engaged) thought it ſafeſt to purchaſe only half the Share, bu bargained for all the Power, as he was to act for Mr. *Booth* in the Management.

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ceding twenty Years, enjoyed ſuch uninterrupted Succeſs, and their Shares had amounted to Fifteen Hundred, and never leſs than a Thouſand Pounds a Year; and as this was, (fortunately for *Booth*) the firſt Sale that had been offered, it was, no doubt, owing to that Circumſtance alone, that ſo extravagant a Price was given; becauſe, in leſs than twelve Months, Mr. *Highmore* purchaſed Mr. *Cibber*'s whole third Share for Three Thouſand Guineas, which was but Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds more than *Booth* got for his Half! Thus Mr. *Highmore* paid the Sum of Five Thouſand Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds for one Share and an Half, which was juſt half the Power of the Patent! He ſhould, before that, have made this timely and uſeful Reflection, that he advanced that great

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great Sum to buy out the remaining two eminent Men, whoſe Abilities in their Profeſſion were the ſole Cauſe of the Succeſs that attended their Theatre!

I remember, when *Booth*'s Purchaſe-Money was paid by Mr. *Highmore*, and the Tranſaction publicly known, Mr. *Cibber* ſeemed greatly hurt at the Thoughts of meeting Mr. *Highmore* and Mr. *Ellis* in the Office of Managers, to conſult with and ſettle the Buſineſs of the Theatre: And ſaid to avoid the Importance of One, and the Ignorance of the Other, he would have his Deputy too; and accordingly inveſted his Son *Theophilus* to ſit down with thoſe Gentlemen in his Place, who wanted nothing but Power to be as troubleſome as any young Man living; however, by his

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great Activity, and ſuperior Knowledge in the Buſineſs, he got up a new Pantomime Entertainment called the *Harlot's Progreſs* (a Story juſt then invented, and made popular, by that great Genius *Hogarth)* which was much approved, and brought a great deal of Money to the Theatre; by his Means Mr. *Highmore* was a Gainer at the cloſe of the Seaſon: but that Profit, and the diſguſt he conceived to the behaviour of young *Cibber*, determined him to treat with the Father for his ſhare of the Patent; which ſecond Purchaſe very ſoon proved fatal to Mr. *Highmore.*

Soon after followed *Booth*'s Death, and his Widow very wiſely made the beſt Bargain ſhe could for her remaining ſixth Share with Mr. *Giffard*, who was then Maſter of the New Theatre in *Goodman's-Fields*;

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Fields; for which, I have been told, ſhe got Fifteen Hundred Pounds.

This ſecond Purchaſe of Mr. *Highmore*'s was at the Commencement of the Seaſon 1733; and in that Situation did that Gentleman enter into the ſecond Seaſon of his Theatrical Government, with only Mr. *Ellis* as Agent for the Widow *Wilks*, to aid and aſſiſt him; for Mr. *Giffard* had, at that Time, a Company of his own to manage at a remote End of the Town; and made his Purchaſe in *Drury-lane* Patent (I heard him ſay) as a good Stake in an Eſtabliſhment, he thought much ſurer than his own.

I believe I may venture to affirm, that two Weeks had not paſſed of Mr. *Highmore*'s Government in the Theatre, before a Revolt

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a Revolt began to ſhew itſelf among the capital Performers; which, I am ſorry to ſay, was ſpirited up by Mr. *Theophilus Cibber*, the Son of the late Patentee, who had, a few Days before, received that large Sum of Money for his Property there; and ſo dexterous was this young Captain, that he inſtantly got all the Seniors, and Perſons of any Conſequence in the Company to enliſt under his Banner; Old *Mills*, *Johnſon*, *Miller*, *Griffin*, *Harper*, &c. Mrs. *Heron* was at that Time at the Head of the Female Liſt, and in the Poſſeſſion of the late Mrs. *Oldfield*'s Parts. She, and all the Women went with the Revolters, but the late Mrs. *Horton* and Mrs. *Clive*; and the Little Theatre in the *Haymarket* was fitted up and decorated with the greateſt Expedition, where they opened with the Comedy

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Comedy of *Love for Love* to an elegant crouded Audience.

The Violence of this Tranſaction was, at this Juncture, ſo notorious, that it immediately threw the whole Town into Party! The Friends to the Revolters urged that the Actors were a free People, and not to be ſold with the Patent, as Slaves with a Plantation in the *Weſt-Indies!* For, it muſt be here obſerved, there were no Articles ſubſiſting between the Managers and Actors, as has been the Cuſtom ever ſince. Mr. *Cibber* tells us, in Page 363, "We neither aſked Actors, nor were de-"ſired by them, to ſign any written "Agreement whatſoever; the Rate of their "reſpective Salaries were only entered in "our daily Pay-Roll; which plain Re-"cord every one looked upon as good as

"City

"City Security." Thus, when Mr. *Highmore* made the Purchaſe of that large Share of the Patent, the Performers (as appears above) were free to chuſe their Maſter, or ſet up for themſelves, even without a Licence, if not contrary to the Laws of the Land; and that muſt hereafter be enquired into. I muſt own, I was heartily diſguſted with the Conduct of the Family of the *Cibbers* on this Occaſion, and had frequent and violent Diſputes with Father and Son, whenever we met! It appeared to me ſomething ſhocking that the Son ſhould immediately render void, and worthleſs, what the Father had juſt received Thirty-one Hundred and Fifty Pounds for, as a valuable Conſideration. I remember, in theſe diſputes the general Obſervation was, what buſineſs had a *Gentleman* to make the Purchaſe? One poſſeſſed of no eminent Qualities,

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Qualities but in common with other men? I muſt own, I was a Stranger to the full Force of that Queſtion then; but Time and Experience have let me a little into the Merits of it; and I ſhall beg my Reader's Leave to enlarge upon it for the good of others, by the following Digreſſion.

The Theatre in *Aungier-ſtreet* in *Dublin* was built about the Year 1728 by a very large Subſcription of Noblemen and Gentlemen; I have had the pleaſure of ſeeing in that Liſt the names of Men of the firſt Fortunes, and moſt diſtinguiſhed Underſtandings in the Kingdom; which fully demonſtrates of what Utility to a flouriſhing Nation, they eſteemed the Improvment of the public Diverſions.

Thus

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Thus a very large Sum of Money was collected and laid out, to build a very ſumptuous, but a very bad Theatre. In a crouded Audience, a great Part in both Galleries can neither *ſee* nor *hear*; and the Manner of conducting the Buſineſs of that Theatre was more injudicious than that of building it, which was as follows—The Subſcribers (called Proprietors) choſe their Chairman for a limited Time, and met in a Committee-Room in the Theatre every *Saturday*, to ſettle the Buſineſs, and to appoint the Plays for the following Week.

Now, if any Gentleman, or Set of Gentlemen unſkill'd in the Art of Navigation, were on board a Ship, and were called to conduct and ſteer the Veſſel into her deſtined

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deſtined Port, I dare ſay they would ſingly and unanimouſly acknowledge their Incapacity, and for their own Sakes decline the Employment! And yet how many Inſtances have we ſeen, both in *Dublin* and *London*, of Perſons who have undertaken the Direction and Steering of a Theatre-Royal, *(that Firſt Rate Man of War!)* without any one neceſſary Qualification for ſo arduous a Taſk! But thoſe Gentlemen ſoon found their Error, and reſigned the Conduct of the Buſineſs to the Actors, not doubting but they had Judgment and Honeſty enough to ſupport it for their own Sakes: But as the Gentlemen ſtill remain'd their Paymaſters, and as the Principles of thoſe Actors were equal to their Policy, they continued to make it a loſing Game, and by that means, in a ſhort Time after, got the whole into their own Hands; but being

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being all Men without Merit in their Profeſſion, they were ſoon, very deſervedly, in a worſe Condition: However, I am clearly of Opinion that the Plan as firſt laid down by thoſe Gentlemen, if carried rightly into Execution, would have been the nobleſt theatrical Conſtitution in the World. All the Profits and Emoluments ariſing from the Performances, were to be ſolely employed in future Decorations, and for procuring the moſt eminent Actors that were to be obtained by Salary; as only the proper Officers and Servants were to have Stipends, and the Profits, inſtead of going into private Purſes, were to be ſolely employed for the public Service of the Theatre! Surely this was a Scheme for as ſplendid Entertainments as *Rome* or *Greece* could ever boaſt of!

But

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But, to return to the deſerted and truly diſtreſſed new Manager, *Highmore*, whom we left in his Theatre-Royal almoſt without a Company. As the Seaſon for acting of Plays was advanced, he was reduced to the Neceſſity of beating his Drum for Volunteers: Several Recruits offered from the Strolling Companies; but I remember none of any Promiſe but Mr. *Macklin*, who ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf.

In this maimed Condition the Buſineſs of Courſe went lamely on; for a very middling Company of Players could be expected to bring but thin loſing Audiences, eſpecially while Party prevailed, and thoſe very Plays were acted much better in the *Haymarket*. The unavoidable and melancholy Conſequence of this Proceeding

ceeding was, that there was a Ballance every *Saturday* Morning in the Office againſt the Manager, of Fifty or Sixty Pounds; and his Pride, as well as his Honour, were too nearly concerned not to produce the Deficiency every Week with the utmoſt Exactneſs. My Reader will eaſily ſee, that a conſtant Deficiency of ſomething near the above Sums, upon an Average every Week, muſt, in Thirty Weeks, amount to a conſiderable Sum.

Well, but as this new Manager had been bred and educated among the Youths of Quality, and had ſpent his Years of Manhood at the Tables of Men of the firſt Faſhion and Fortune, he flattered himſelf with Redreſs very ſoon from that Quarter; and in particular, that the Lord Chamberlain would interfere in this Cauſe, as in former

former Days, to ſupport the King's Patent; eſpecially ſince it was purchaſed into the Hands of a Gentleman, who had the Honour of being intimately acquainted with his Grace.

It muſt be confeſſed, all this brought a flattering Proſpect before the Eyes of an unexperienced Man! This carried him on through ſome of the above-mentioned failing Weeks, with ſome Degree of Spirit and Chearfulneſs; being employed in the important Buſineſs of Levee-haunting, and bringing the Hopes and Merits of his Cauſe to a Trial. He did ſo, and the Court Sentence was fatal. He was told at laſt, he could have no Aid from that Quarter, and that he muſt apply to the Law for the Support of his Patent; and by Way of Comfort, a Hint, at the ſame Time

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Time was given him that the *Act againſt Vagrants* would effectually ſerve him! This proved a temporary Conſolation to the poor Manager. A Council was called,—an Attorney choſe,—and the Affair was to be conducted with all that Decorum which the Law requires. The Steps to be taken as directed by the Learned, were, to ſeize one of the leading Players at the Theatre in the *Haymarket*, by Virtue of a Warrant from a Juſtice of the Peace, and to commit him to Priſon as a Vagrant. This was accordingly done; and HARPER was the Perſon ſeized, and hurried by the Conſtables to *Bridewell*; and then all the neceſſary Steps were taken, on both Sides, to bring the Cauſe to Trial in *Weſtminſter-Hall*. Mr. *Cibber*, in Page 229, tells us he was preſent. His Words are as follows: "When the Legality of this Com-

"mitment

" mitment was diſputed in *Weſtminſter-*
" *Hall*, by all I could obſerve, from the
" learned Pleadings on both Sides, it did
" not appear to me, that the Comedian,
" ſo committed, was within the Deſcrip-
" tion of the Vagrant Act of the Twelfth
" of Queen *Ann*, he being a HOUSE-
" KEEPER, and having a Vote for the
" *Weſtminſter* Members of Parliament!
" He was diſcharged accordingly, and
" conducted through the Hall with the
" Congratulations of Crouds that attended,
" and wiſhed well to his Cauſe."

I doubt not but my Reader has had Penetration enough to ſee the notorious Blunder committed here; though Mr. *Cibber* either did not, or would not ſee it, though he obſerves the learned Pleadings entirely turned on that ſingle Point,

HARPER's

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Harper's being a Housekeeper. I well remember when I heard the Event of this Trial, and on what a ſcandalous Error all their boaſted Triumph was founded, I could not help ſuſpecting the Integrity of the Perſon who conducted this Affair; becauſe, if the *Houſekeeper, who paid Scot and Lot,* could not be deemed a Vagrant *, the natural Queſtion then follows, *Why was* Harper *ſingled out?* A Man known for many Years to be a Houſekeeper in the Pariſh of *St. Paul's, Covent-Garden*; when there were ſeveral more

* I have been well informed, Mr. *Cibber* was miſtaken in his Obſervation on the Pleadings in Court at that Trial, that ſo far from the Houſekeeper being a Protection from the Vagrant Act, a learned Councellor aſſerted, that it was in the Power of the greateſt Subject in *England* to be guilty of an Action of Vagrancy; and that the only Point to be diſputed there was, whether *Harper*'s performing in the *Haymarket* Theatre was committing that Act?

eminent

eminent Comedians in that Company, that conſtantly acted at both our Fairs, and were *not Houſekeepers!* But the Dice were thrown, and the poor new Manager was devoted to Ruin. This Trial was attended with no ſmall Expence; which, added to his conſtant failing Audiences, was ſufficient to deſtroy a much larger Eſtate than his; and it was with the utmoſt Difficulty that he held out through the Seaſon. The Misfortunes that befel this Gentleman gave great Concern to his real Friends. He was a Man of Humanity and ſtrict Honour; many Inſtances fatally proved, that his Word, when ſolemnly given, (which was his Cuſtom) was ſufficient for the Performance, though ever ſo injurious to himſelf.

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At this Time another enterprizing Gentleman appeared, *Charles Fleetwood*, Eſq; who purchaſed the whole Patent for very little more than poor *Highmore* gave for Half of it.

This new theatrical Monarch began his Reign with all that Dignity that attends a Man of great Fortune and Faſhion. His Friendſhip and Connections with many Perſons of Quality, gave him the Promiſe of a Power that muſt carry all before it. And ſo it did: The regaining the Revolters, and bringing them back to his Theatre, was the firſt Object that preſented itſelf, and he met with very little Difficulty in accompliſhing it. The moſt grave and ſenſible Part of the Revolters, that had any Thing to loſe, before that Time had

ſome

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ſome Reaſon to be ſick of their Enterprize; for their Salaries, as well as Expectations, were too large for their Theatre; and when ſuch Men as old *Mills*, *Johnſon*, *Griffin*, *Miller*, *Harper* (all Men in Years) found themſelves the Dupes of ſo young and wild a Leader as Mr. *Cibber* Junior, they grew aſhamed of their Situation; and therefore, any Advances towards the bringing them back again, were ſure to meet with a favourable Reception. This their young ſpirited Leader ſoon diſcovered; and therefore had Addreſs enough to preſerve his Station, and was not only principal, but alone, at the firſt Meeting for a Treaty of Peace with the new Manager; by which Means, it may be ſuppoſed, he made himſelf conſiderable, and got very advantageous Terms for himſelf and Favourites.

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Thus Peace was reſtored, to the entire Satisfaction of both Parties; but the ATTORNEY was now thought neceſſary, and *Articles of Agreement* were mutually ſigned between the Manager and Party; wherein not only the Salary, but other Particularities, as Parts and Privileges, were aſcertained. That ſimple plain Record, which *Cibber* celebrates in Page 363, of *the Entrance of every Actor's reſpective Salary in their daily Pay-roll*, was now no longer thought as ſufficient as City Security.

Mills the Elder, I believe, was the only Perſon among the Veterans, who could demand an Encreaſe of Salary; becauſe, he was now the only Tragic Hero in that Company, who could venture to appear in the Characters of the late Mr. *Booth*; and, though

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though this Actor performed two or three very capital Parts, when the late happy Managers were in the Zenith of their Succeſs, and *Booth* in the full Poſſeſſion of his theatrical Powers; yet when *Mills*, at this Period, ſtood foremoſt, and alone, he ſeemed to ſicken under the Weight he had engaged to carry; and indeed, in his Strength and Vigour, (for he was now turned of Threeſcore) he might be literally and truly called the *theatrical Porter*, for the Burthen of the Buſineſs lay entirely on him. I have ſeen the Liſt of his Characters; and as that Company generally played an hundred and eighty Nights, *Mills* performed at leaſt an hundred and ſeventy Nights every Seaſon! To act capital Parts of great Length, in ſo many Tragedies and Comedies every Night in the Week, and to have Health and Conſti-

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tution to ſupport ſo much Fatigue, was moſt amazing! Thus he was apparently very uſeful, and in all Characters decent; but theſe Qualities, and in the Decline, were not ſufficient to do Juſtice to an *Hamlet* or *Othello*. However, as no Competitor offered, they became his Right by Seniority; and he had the Happineſs of dying in the quiet Poſſeſſion of that Dignity, which happened ſoon after.

This Return of the capital Actors to their old well-accuſtomed Theatre, made a very viſible Difference in the Audiences, to the Advantage of the new Manager, whoſe Unſkilfulneſs in the Buſineſs of the Stage was by that Means the longer concealed; but though he was an entire Stranger to the Art of theatrical Navigation, he had Cunning enough to look out for a Pilot.

Theophilus

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Theophilus Cibber ſet out with him, his Favourite and firſt Miniſter; but did not long continue in that high Office. The Manager had Senſe enough to find that he was an improper and dangerous Man. This *Cibber*, (in the late Diſputes) had written againſt *Gentlemen* Managers; and had told the Public, he looked upon Mr. *Highmore* as the Purchaſer of his Birth-right. *Cibber* was therefore diſplaced for *Macklin*, a Man at that Time of ſeeming humble Pretenſions, but of Capabilities to raiſe himſelf to the Office of Lord High Cardinal. This Miniſter continued long in the higheſt Favour with the Manager; and the Buſineſs of the Theatre was conducted ſome Years under his Influence and Direction: I well remember, there were all the Appearances of Succeſs, as well as all the uſual Murmurings and Diſcontents

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among Authors and Actors; but I muſt ſpeak of the Particulars of this Period from Report, becauſe my Attention, from the Year 1734 to 1746, was wholly employed in my own Affairs, having made two Viſits to *Ireland*, and engaged in the Linen Manufactures of that Kingdom. I formed an Attempt to introduce the *fine* Linens of *Ireland* to the general Uſe of the Nobility and Gentry of *England*; and then opened a Warehouſe in the Centre of *Pall-mall* for that Purpoſe, which was carried on twelve Years, and a great Part of that Time with Succeſs *; but the *Iriſh* Manufacturers injured me, by an injudicious Eagerneſs to grow rich too faſt; and being fearful of involving myſelf in Difficulties, I gave it up in 1746, and went with my

* In Oppoſition to one opened at *Charing-Croſs* by Sir *William Dalrymple* for the Manufacture of *Scotland*.

Family

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Family to ſettle in *Dublin*, and to ballance my Accounts there. At that Time I embarked in the Theatre Royal in that City, which was then in a very low, diſtreſſed Condition; but has been ſince raiſed to a Magnificence that vies with the Theatres of *London:* of which due Notice ſhall be taken hereafter.

But to return to my Subject: The Manager of *Drury-lane* Theatre, Mr. *Fleetwood*, I had the Honour to be acquainted with when he arrived at the Age of Twenty-one, and entered into a landed Eſtate of Six Thouſand a Year. He was agreeable in his Perſon; and the Qualities of his Mind, and Amiableneſs of his Diſpoſition, carried with them irreſiſtible Attractions; all the Nobility of the Kingdom ſeemed fond of cultivating an Acquaintance with

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a young Man of his extenſive Fortune, right Diſpoſition, and Sweetneſs of Temper. He was affable and engaging in his Addreſs, which was the laſt and only remaining Quality that he kept with him to his Death; and no Doubt, that would have vaniſhed with the reſt, if he had not found it of conſtant Uſe to him in his Buſineſs with the World, as that Addreſs enabled him to deceive even Perſons that thought themſelves armed againſt him.

It may be here very neceſſary to obſerve, that it was not the theatrical Soil that produced this deſtructive Change in this Gentleman: No. I am well informed, that he came a ruined Man into the Management of the Theatre; and that he was for ſome Years a Gainer by his Purchaſe there.

The

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The ſudden Ruin of this once amiable young Gentleman happened at a Period of univerſal Havock; when a noble Perſonage of the firſt Rank and Fortune in *England*, and his Companion, a Baronet of Twelve Thouſand a Year, were ſurrounded and deſtroyed by a Set of honourable Sharpers. Mr. *Fleetwood* unfortunately fell into this Set, and received great Injury in his Fortune before he had Time to recollect himſelf *. What Pity it is, as ſome of thoſe Sharpers are ſtill in their Chariots, rolling (as Count *Baſſet* ſays) on the four Aces, that they cannot be pointed out to the World with Safety! I remember at that Time to have heard it

* At the young Heir the Gameſter points his Eye,
And, like the Spider, feaſts upon the Fly!
From the Fly this Gentleman was transformed into the Spider, and taken into this honourable Set.

computed,

computed, that the vaſt Sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds were divided amongſt ſix of thoſe Knights of the Order of Induſtry! One of them (and indeed the moſt iniquitous) only added a great Sum to a plentiful Fortune; and as he had not the Highwayman's common Excuſe to plead, it was no Wonder that Reflection ſhould drive him into a State of Madneſs, in which dreadful Condition he died. I believe this Remark may be made with Certainty, that a *large Fortune* was ſcarcely ever made by Play with *Honour*; and all Gentlemen, at preſent engaged in that Purſuit, would do well to reflect ſeriouſly on the Truth of this Obſervation.

Should any one object, that I have taken too great Liberty with the Characters of the

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the Dead; I reply, that I am fully ſenſible of the Reaſonableneſs of that Maxim, *De mortuis nil niſi bonum*; however, this muſt not extend to Hiſtory, wherein, for a juſt Recital of Facts, the true and full Characters of the principal Agents are often requiſite; and the Hiſtorian ſhould be under no Manner of Reſtraint, but that only of keeping within the Bounds of Truth and Decency.

It muſt be of public Utility, to lay theſe Scenes open to the World, that young Men of Fortune may be properly alarmed, that a due Senſe of their imminent Danger may keep them conſtantly on their Guard; for theſe ſix fortunate Knights of the Order of Induſtry were all Gentlemen, well born and educated,

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cated, and one of them in the Poſſeſſion of a large hereditary Fortune.

I have made a copious Digreſſion, which I hope my Reader will excuſe for the Reaſon already aſſigned.

But to return to the Theatre: The Buſineſs went on ſucceſsfully there from the Year 1732 to the Year 1740, though the Parts performed by the three late eminent Actors were ſupplied by Perſons greatly inferior in Merit.

Mr. *Quin* ſucceeded the Elder *Mills* in all the capital Parts of Tragedy, in *Drury-lane* Theatre, aſſiſted by *Milward*, a young Man who had ſome Requiſites to make a good Actor. He had a Voice clear, full, and

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and melodious *. *Delane* was taken from the Theatre in *Goodman's-Fields* into this Company, when *Quin* left it. The Women of any Note were Mrs. *Heron* and Mrs. *Clive*. Mrs. *Heron*, at the Death of Mrs. *Oldfield*, was ſingled out by Mr. *Cibber* to ſupport his favourite Characters of Lady *Betty Modiſh* and Lady *Townly*. On that Account he took extraordinary Pains, which was of ſingular Happineſs to her; becauſe, with that Advantage, ſhe made but a decent Actreſs. She was naturally well formed, with an eaſy, elegant Air and Mein; and though her Voice was bad, ſhe had a ſenſible Pronunciation.

* Mr. *Quin* had been many Years the firſt Actor at the Theatre-Royal in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, where he was well received by the Public in all the capital Characters, and excellent in that of *Falſtaff*.

Mrs.

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Mrs. *Clive*'s Merit was very early, (and continues to this Day very juſtly) diſtinguiſhed. The Comedians of Note were *Cibber* the Younger, and *Macklin*, who were both gradually riſing in Reputation and Favour with the Public.

Mr. *Fleetwood* continued in the Management of the Theatre from the Year 1734 to 1745; and during that Interval the following remarkable Occurrences happened, which muſt not paſs unnoticed.

About the Year 1736 Mrs. *Cibber* made her firſt Appearance at *Drury-lane* Theatre in the Character of *Zara*, a Tragedy juſt then tranſlated from *Voltaire* by my worthy Friend *Aaron Hill* Eſq. who having at that Time a Nephew that had a violent Inclination

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clination for the Stage, the Uncle (who had miſtaken Notions of his Abilities) prevailed on the Manager to let him appear in the Character of *Oſmyn*. Thus the Public were treated with a new Tragedy, and two new Performers in the two capital Characters; an uncommon Entertainment. The young Man did Injury both to the Play and himſelf, and was properly treated by the Audience, who ſeemed to ſhew their Diſlike with Reluctance. Mrs. *Cibber* received that Approbation ſhe juſtly deſerved, and gave full Promiſe of being what ſhe now is, a celebrated Actreſs; but ſoon after her Entrance into the Buſineſs, ſhe was taken from the Stage for ſome Years by domeſtic Misfortunes.

There were two Riots at this Theatre within that Space that deſerve Notice, as a Warning

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Warning to the preſent and future Managers, ſince, in my Opinion, the Public were in the right in both :—A new Pantomime was brought on at *Drury-lane* Theatre, a Thing called an Entertainment, which ended as uſual with a grand Dance, generally the beſt Part of it. Madam *Chateauneuf* (the beſt *French* Dancer here at that Time) being taken ill, the Dance could not take Place, and yet the Manager publiſhed her Name three Nights running, without the leaſt Apology. The firſt Night they were pretty quiet, the ſecond they only hiſſed; but the third, they uſhered out the Ladies, and then went to work with the Houſe. The firſt Motion, and made by a moſt *noble Marquis*, was to fire it! but that being carried in the Negative, they began with the Orcheſtra, broke the Harpſicord and Baſe-Viols, broke

all

all the Looking-Glaſſes, pulled up the Benches in the Pit, broke down the Boxes, even the King's-Arms in the Front (a Sort of petty Treaſon) fell a Victim to their Rage! But the *noble Marquis*, who headed theſe Rioters, the next Morning when he came to his cooler Senſes, ſent an Hundred Pound Bank Note to the Houſe, for his *Share* of the Damage; and if all the Rioters had been Marquiſſes, and followed that Example, it would have ſerved the Manager; but, alas! he was adviſed to pocket that Hundred, and make up the Deficiency of the Damages himſelf.

The ſecond Riot was about the Manager's continuing raiſed Prices to old Entertainments. From the Beginning of *Cibber*'s Hiſtory to the End, the Prices at the Theatres were conſtantly Four Shillings,

Two

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Two Shillings and Six-pence, Eighteen-pence, and One Shilling; and they remained ſo, till the Inſtance that occaſioned this Riot. I remember, in *Cibber*'s Time, the Prices to have been raiſed when a *new* Play has been thoroughly new dreſſed. That carried the Appearance of Reaſon; becauſe, after the Run of that Play was over, the Prices fell again to their old Standard: The Prices were alſo raiſed at the Introduction of a Pantomime, when it was ſuppoſed a Thouſand Pounds, or upwards, were generally expended in the Decoration of thoſe Raree-ſhews; but in the Caſe before us, full Prices were demanded, and taken, for an old Pantomime of no Manner of Merit. After two or three Nights Diſturbances, the laſt Night a Country Gentleman was taken out of one of the Upper Boxes, by the Conſtables, for

for Hiſſing, and carried before Juſtice *Deviel*, who was too cunning to meddle in the Affair. This injudicious Step was ſoon known by the Audience, and was very near being the Occaſion of much Miſchief. The Manager was called for by the Audience in full Cry; but not being an Actor, he pleaded his Privilege of being exempted from appearing on the Stage before them; and ſent them Word by one of the Performers, that he was ready to confer with any Set they ſhould depute to meet him in the Green-Room. A Deputation accordingly went from the Pit, and the Houſe patiently waited the Event, which was amicably ended as follows, *viz.* That the full Prices ſhould be conſtantly paid at the Doors, and ſuch Perſons as did not chuſe to ſtay the Entertainment, and

went

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went out at the End of the Play, ſhould have the Advance Money returned.

This was a very lucky Negotiation for the Manager; becauſe, when People were once happily ſeated, very few went out to demand their Advanced Money; and thoſe few ſoon grew tired; till at laſt it ſettled in the quiet Payment of the Advanced Prices, as at this Day.

The next Commotion was within the Theatres, occaſioned by Mr. *Fleetwood*'s ſigning a Cartel with the Manager of the Theatre-Royal in *Covent-Garden*. It was the general Opinion, that the two Houſes were then going under one Influence, and into one Intereſt; from thence muſt have aroſe Oppreſſion upon the Actors, and Impoſition on the Town;

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Town; becauſe, if two or three of the capital Performers, who withdrew themſelves on that Occaſion, had retired to *Dublin*, the Managers (if they had not united in one Intereſt) might yet have agreed to exhibit their different Entertainments alternately; by which Means they muſt ſecure a gainful Audience in this populous City, and the poor Players muſt have ſtarved ſeven Days on three Nights Pay.

In the Year 1738, there was a Motion made in the Houſe of Commons for a Licenſing Act, which met with great Oppoſition in both Houſes of Parliament. Mr. *Cibber* has taken up ſeveral Pages of his Book, in his Obſervations on the LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S Juriſdiction over the Theatre, Time immemorial; of the Subordination

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ordination to his Authority; and to prove, from the Inſtances he quotes, that this Power was exerciſed without any one Law to ſupport it.

When his Majeſty's Comedians were conſtantly ſworn into his Service at the *Lord Chamberlain*'s Office, and wore the King's Livery, they became, no doubt, from that Inſtant, within his Juriſdiction; and as, in the earlieſt Days, there were Laws to puniſh Vagrants and ſtrolling Minſtrels *, it was therefore neceſſary, when there were ſix Theatres at one Time in *London*, that every one ſhould be under the Protection of ſome Prince of the Blood, or Nobleman, and they performed as his Servants. In this Situation, who was ſo

* In the Reign of *Edward* III. and in the 4th of *Henry* IV.

proper

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proper to ſilence theſe People for Miſdemeanors as the LORD CHAMBERLAIN? And though the Honour of being his Majeſty's Servants is now no more, yet, as all who act under the KING's PATENT are called his Comedians, was it not rational, and highly proper, that the LORD CHAMBERLAIN ſhould hold his Power over all Actors under that Denomination? I was always of Opinion, that *Cibber* miſtook the Complaints of the Public againſt this Act, which gave that Power to a *Licenſer*; they did not complain of the LORD CHAMBERLAIN's POWER over the PLAYERS, but over the AUTHORS who wrote for the Stage; and from the eloquent Speech of a *noble Earl* againſt that Bill when brought into the Houſe of Lords, it was much feared an Attack upon the Liberty of the Preſs would follow; and though it

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might be neceſſary to limit the Number of Theatres, yet they thought that might have been done, without giving ſuch dangerous Power to a LICENSER *.

However, as the late Juſtice *F——g* (when he was in the diſhoneſt Employment of an Incendiary Writer) was, at this Time, in the Poſſeſſion of the Little The-

* Mr. *Cibber*, on this Occaſion, pays a very juſt Compliment to the late DUKE OF GRAFTON in the following Words: " It is evident, that the Power of " that white Staff, ever ſince it has been in the noble " Hand that now holds it, has been uſed with the ut- " moſt Lenity."——And I am of Opinion, if the preſent LORD CHAMBERLAIN was inveſted with arbitrary Power, his Humanity and Benevolence would direct him to employ it in the Service of diſtreſſed Objects. In the Preface to the Tragedy of the *Inſolvent*, acted in 1758, it is thus proved——" That his Grace " the DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE humanely conſidered " the diſtreſſed Condition of a Comedian, (meaning the " late Mr. *Theophilus Cibber*) and gave him Liberty to " try his Fortune a-while at the Little Theatre in the " *Haymarket*."

atre

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atre in the *Haymarket*, where he dealt about his Satires moſt unmercifully againſt the firſt Miniſter, as *Cibber* juſtly obſerves in Page 231, "Knocking down all Di-"ſtinctions. — Religion, Laws, Govern-"ment, Prieſts, Judges, and Miniſters, "were all laid down by this *Herculean* Sa-"tyriſt!" Theſe were the Proceedings that brought on this Beginning of a Diſtreſs upon the Stage; and as the Reaſons for urging the Neceſſity of paſſing that Bill were notorious, it met with a Majority in both Houſes, and paſſed into a Law, to limit the Number of Theatres in *London*; and that no Play, not even a Prologue, Epilogue, or Song, ſhould be exhibited at either Theatre, without being firſt inſpected, and having the Approbation of the Licenſer.

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In Purſuance of this Act of Parliament, the new Theatre in *Goodman's-Fields* was ſhut up, as well as the little Theatre in the *Haymarket*; and two new Manuſcript Tragedies, the enſuing Seaſon, were prohibited by the Licenſer; the one, GUSTAVUS VASA, written by *Henry Brooke* Eſq. a young Gentleman of a very promiſing Genius, from *Ireland*, and late a Student at the *Temple*; and the other, *Eleanora*, by my late worthy celebrated Friend Mr. *Thomſon*. Both theſe proſcribed Plays were diſtinguiſhed by large Subſcriptions; particularly the firſt. As I was intimately acquainted with the Author, I am certain he cleared above a Thouſand Pounds by that Subſcription; ſo much incenſed were the Public at this firſt Inſtance of the Power of a Licenſer!

By

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By this unpopular Act of Parliament the new Theatre in *Goodman's-Fields* was effectually deſtroyed; the little Theatre in the *Haymarket* was alſo ſhut up. But be it obſerved, that by ſhutting up theſe two Theatres, many of our itinerant Heroes were deprived of Bread. And—will it be believed — at this Diſtance of Two and Twenty Years? that, during the Murmuring at theſe recited Acts of Power, a Company of FRENCH STROLLERS ſhould be licenſed to act, in that Theatre, in the *Haymarket*. The *French* Advertiſement appeared with theſe Words at the Top, By AUTHORITY! But they ſoon found, by the Public Clamours, that ſomething more than the *Sound* of Authority would be neceſſary to ſupport them. The Tran-

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ſactions of that Evening may be of ſome Entertainment to my Reader, and not very foreign from my Subject.

People went early to the Theatre, as a crouded Houſe was certain. I was there, in the Centre of the Pit; where I ſoon perceived that we were viſited by two *Weſtminſter* Juſtices, DEVEIL and MANNING. The Leaders, that had the Conduct of the Oppoſition, were known to be there; one of whom called aloud for the Song in Praiſe of *Engliſh* Roaſt Beef, which was accordingly ſung in the Gallery by a Perſon prepared for that Purpoſe; and the whole Houſe beſides joining in the Chorus, ſaluted the Cloſe with three Huzzas! This, Juſtice *Deveil* was pleaſed to ſay, was a Riot; upon which Diſputes commenced directly, which were carried on with ſome Degree

Degree of Decency on both Sides. The Juſtice at firſt informed us, " That he was " come there as a Magiſtrate to maintain " the *King*'s Authority; that Colonel " *Pulteney*, with a full Company of the " Guards, were without, to ſupport him " in the Execution of his Office; that it " was the KING'S COMMAND the Play " ſhould be acted; and that the obſtruct- " ing it was oppoſing the KING'S AU- " THORITY; and if that was done, he " muſt read the Proclamation; after which " all Offenders would be ſecured directly " by the Guards in waiting." To all theſe moſt arbitrary Threatnings, this Abuſe of his MAJESTY'S Name, the Reply was to the following Effect:—" That " the Audience had a legal Right to ſhew " their Diſlike to any Play or Actor; that " the common Laws of the Land were no-

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" thing but common Cuſtom, and the
" antient Uſuage of the People; that the
" Judicature of the Pit had been acknow-
" ledged and acquieſced to, Time imme-
" morial; and as the preſent Set of Actors
" were to take their Fate from the Public,
" they were free to receive them as they
" pleaſed."

By this Time the Hour of Six drew near; and the *French* and *Spaniſh* Embaſſadors, with their Ladies; the late Lord and Lady *Gage*; and Sir *T*—— *R*——, a Commiſſioner of the Exciſe, all appeared in the Stage Box together! At that Inſtant the Curtain drew up, and diſcovered the Actors ſtanding between two Files of Grenadiers, with their Bayonets fixed, and reſting on their Firelocks. There was a Sight! enough to animate the coldeſt

Briton.

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Briton. At this the whole Pit roſe, and unanimouſly turned to the Juſtices, who ſat in the Middle of it, to demand the Reaſon of ſuch arbitrary Proceedings? The Juſtices either knew nothing of the Soldiers being placed there, or thought it ſafeſt to declare ſo. At that Declaration, they demanded of Juſtice *Deveil* (who had owned himſelf the commanding Officer in the Affair) to order them off the Stage. He did ſo immediately, and they diſappeared. Then began the Serenade; not only Catcalls, but all the various portable Inſtruments, that could make a diſagreeable Noiſe, were brought up on this Occaſion, which were continually tuning in all Parts of the Houſe; and as an Attempt to ſpeaking was ridiculous, the Actors retired, and they opened with a grand Dance of twelve Men and twelve Women; but even

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that was prepared for, and they were directly ſaluted with a Buſhel or two of Peas, which made their Capering very unſafe. After this they attempted to open the Comedy; but had the Actor the Voice of Thunder, it would have been loſt in the confuſed Sounds from a thouſand various Inſtruments. Here, at the waving *Deviel*'s Hand, all was ſilent, and (ſtanding up on his Seat) he made a Propoſal to the Houſe to this Effect:—"That if they perſiſted "in the Oppoſition, he muſt read the "Proclamation; that if they would per-"mit the Play to go on, and to be acted "through that Night, he would promiſe, "(on his Honour) to lay their Diſlikes, "and Reſentment to the Actors, before the "KING, and he doubted not but a ſpeedy "End would be put to their acting." The Anſwer to this Propoſal was very ſhort,

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ſhort, and very expreſſive. "No TREA-"TIES, No TREATIES!" At this the Juſtice called for Candles to read the Proclamation, and ordered the Guards to be in Readineſs; but a Gentleman ſeizing Mr. *Deveil*'s Hand, ſtretched out for the Candle, begged of him to conſider what he was going to do, for his own Sake, for ours, for the King's! that he ſaw the unanimous Reſolution of the Houſe; and that the Appearance of Soldiers in the Pit would throw us all into a Tumult, which muſt end with the Lives of many. This earneſt Remonſtrance made the Juſtice turn pale and paſſive. At this Pauſe the Actors made a ſecond Attempt to go on, and the Uproar revived; which continuing ſome Time, the Embaſſadors and their Ladies left their Box, which occaſioned a univerſal Huzza from the

the whole Houſe! and after calling out ſome Time for the Falling of the Curtain, *down it fell.* I will venture to ſay, that at no Battle gained over the *French* by the *immortal* MARLBOROUGH, the Shoutings could be more joyous than on this Occaſion. What greatly added to my Pleaſure was, to ſee the two Juſtices join in this grand Huzza, by waving their Hats over their Heads, and at the ſame Time wore Faces more like the conquered than Conquerors.

I was ſorry to hear, that the Embaſſadors were inſulted by the Mob without Doors, (who cut the Braces of their Coaches) becauſe they were not the proper Objects of Reſentment. But what elſe could be expected, at a Time when ſeveral of our own poor Players were in Goal for

Debt,

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Debt, being deprived of their Livelihood by the late Act of Parliament. Was that a Juncture for a Company of *French* Strollers to appear in, ſupported by AUTHORITY?

A Perſon of Diſtinction, now living, told me the next Day, that he had read my Name that Morning in a Liſt of Leaders, who had oppoſed the *French* Players, lying on the Table of a great Duke. I replied, that as the Oppoſition was conducted without Miſchief, I thought myſelf honoured by being in that Liſt.

In the Winter Seaſon, before the ſhutting up the new Playhouſe in *Goodman's-Fields*, there appeared a bright Luminary in the Theatrical Hemiſphere. A young Man appeared there in the Character of *Richard*; and

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and the Fame of his extraordinary Performance reached *St. James*'s End of the Town; when Coaches and Chariots with Coronets, ſoon ſurrounded that remote Theatre. That Luminary ſoon after became a Star of the firſt Magnitude, and was called GARRICK: but the Merits of this Actor may be conſidered in a more proper Place.

We are now arrived to the Year 1743, when Mr. *Fleetwood* (whoſe Body was as much impaired by an exceſſive Gout, as his Fortune by his Miſconduct) began to think of retreating from an Employment he was no longer able to appear in; and wiſhed to retire to the South of *France*, as a Refuge from all his complicated Misfortunes.

Having

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Having already mortgaged the Patent to Sir *John De Lorme* and one Mr. *Maſters*, for 3000*l.* he took up 7000*l.* more on the Cloaths, Scenes, *&c.* of one Mr. *M—e*, who was put into Poſſeſſion of the Houſe and Treaſury, that he might pay himſelf out of the Receipts: Mr. *Fleetwood* having induced him to believe, that the ſaid 7000*l.* would releaſe the Patent, and ſatisfy all other Demands upon the Theatre.

But Duplicity was the prevailing Characteriſtick of Mr. *Fleetwood*; and the Truth was ſoon after revealed by an Advertiſement, in which Notice was given, that the Patent was to be ſold before a Maſter in Chancery. Mr. *M—e*, offended at the Chicanery he had met with, would advance no more Money; and on the other Hand,

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Hand, knowing that the Theatre would be of no Uſe without the Patent, it could not but be his Intention to purchaſe it, for the ſake of doing himſelf Juſtice.

And here I find it incumbent on me to mention my old Acquaintance, Mr. *Lacy*, now premier Patentee in the Theatre I am diſcourſing of.

In or about the Year 1722 I met with him firſt at *Norwich*, where he was then a reputable Dealer in the Manufactures of that City; but having a theatrical Biaſs, and meeting with Misfortunes in his Buſineſs, he entered himſelf of Mr. *Rich*'s Company in *London*.

It may here be obſerved, that it was not uſual, at that Time, for the principal Actors to

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to dodge between Theatre and Theatre, for the ſake of a little temporary Advantage, till they had loſt their Characters and Importance at both. On the contrary, knowing that high Salaries could not be obtained, or at leaſt ſupported, without full Houſes, or full Houſes without a Diverſity of Attractions, (which could not be procured, if Time was to be waſted in rehearſing old Stock Plays, for the Sake of the new Performers to be introduced in them) they wiſely remained where they were, and thereby kept Poſſeſſion of the Parts they were perfect in. But then, what was thus commendable in them, with regard to themſelves, was, perhaps, equally diſcouraging to thoſe in the next Walk below them, who, by this Means, ſaw themſelves in a Manner excluded from thoſe Diſtinctions and Emoluments, which all of

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of them, no Doubt, aſpire to; and in all Probability, it was for this Reaſon, that Mr. *Lacy*, with many others, became Adventurers with the late Mr. *Fielding* at the little Theatre in the *Haymarket*. The Play of *Paſquin*, ſo critically timed, and ſo long and ſo much followed, was the Performance then to be exhibited; and every Body that attended it muſt remember, that Mr. *Lacy* played the Part of the Tragedy Poet in it. After which, the Law having ſilenced that Theatre, he read Lectures at *York-Buildings*, deſigned and erected the ſpacious Building for muſical Entertainments in *Ranelagh* Gardens at *Chelſea*, and having ſold it to —— *Burnaby* Eſq. for 4000*l.* Premium, became an Aſſiſtant Manager to Mr. *Rich*; during which Interval it was, that Mr. *Fleetwood*'s

Patent

Patent was advertiſed for Sale, as before ſpecified.

Now it ſo happened, that two reputable Perſons in the City, Strangers to Mr. *Lacy*, came to a Reſolution to buy it, in Caſe he, Mr. *Lacy*, could be prevailed upon to undertake the Management of the Company. Mr. *Bidal*, Clerk of the Vintner's Company, was the Perſon employed to treat with him. The Terms offered were a joint Partnerſhip; they to lay down the whole Purchaſe-Money, and hold Mr. *Lacy*'s Third in Mortgage, in Caſe it did not ſuit him to make his own Depoſit, till his Share of the Profits ſhould gradually diſcharge it. An indubitable Proof, that the general good Opinion entertained both of his Probity and Ability had

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had induced them to repoſe this Confidence in him.

A Meeting of the Parties followed next, at which all Particulars were adjuſted to every Body's Satisfaction; but the very next Day all was disjointed again by the ſudden Indiſpoſition of one of the Contractors, which rendered him incapable of carrying the Affair into Execution, to the great Concern of Meſſrs. *Green* and *Amber*, Bankers, who were preſent at this Meeting, and who were to have been Bankers to the Theatre, in Caſe any ſurplus Caſh had ariſen from it.

To theſe Gentlemen Mr. *Lacy* was not unknown; and after what had paſſed, it was but natural for them to think of putting themſelves in the Citizens Places. They

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They did ſo, and propoſed the ſame Conditions to Mr. *Lacy*, provided he could prevail firſt on Mr. *Fleetwood* to accept of an Annuity during the Term of the Patent, and ſecondly on Mr. *M—e*, to let his Mortgage lye. Mr. *Lacy* ſucceeded in both. Mr. *M—e* acquieſced, on having his Security for the former Sum ſtrengthened by the Addition of the Patent, and Mr. *Fleetwood* was very well ſatisfied to receive 600*l.* a Year, out of a Wreck which, as to him, ſcarce appeared to be worth ſaving. And Meſſrs. *Green* and *Amber* paid down 3200*l.* for the Patent.

They broke ſome Time afterwards; and the Ignorant and Malicious were pleaſed to ſurmiſe, that their Misfortunes were owing to this Purchaſe; but nothing could be farther from the Truth. In the ordinary

ordinary Way of Buſineſs, the Depoſit they had made would not have been miſſed; and of this they were ſo confident, that they not only proceeded in the diſcounting Way of Trade as before, but actually advanced Money to Mr. *Fleetwood* upon his Annuity.

All Bankers are underſtood to have two Capitals; one their own, the other of Lodgment, left in Truſt with them, liable to be reſumed on Demand; and out of the prudential Uſe of both, founded on Speculation and Experience, ariſe their Profits. Some of theſe are Collectors and Caſhiers for great Traders, who have not immediate Occaſion for their Money; and others the Depoſitories for large Sums of the Land-Tax, remitted to them from the Country

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Country Receivers, through the Hands of the Saleſmen of *Smithfield.*

Of the latter Sort were Meſſrs. *Green* and *Amber.* They had always a conſiderable Sum of this Money in their Hands. It had been the Cuſtom for them and others to pay it into the Exchequer, one Payment under the other; they had driven their Bargains, and made their Diſpoſitions accordingly; and having found the Current uniform for a certain Time, did not ſo much as dream of a Reflux ſo ſudden as that which the Rebellion occaſioned, and which ſwept them and their Affairs along with it.

At that alarming Period every Individual thought only of collecting all the Specie within his Reach for his own immediate

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mediate Uſes. A *Run*, as it is phraſed, upon the Bankers, and Bank of *England*, followed of Courſe; both were ſufficiently embarraſſed by it; and how much the latter ſtood obliged to the ſeaſonable, rational, noble Aſſociation of the Merchants in its Favour, is yet recent in Memory. Even the Government itſelf, either preſſed by Neceſſity, or willing to be guarded againſt the worſt, called upon their Receivers to pay in all the Caſh in their Hands, without any Regard to the uſual Method of Forbearance.

Meſſrs. *Green* and *Amber* were at that Time accountable to the Exchequer for about 20,000*l.* (of which 3200*l.* was but a ſmall Part) and not being in a Condition to anſwer ſo great a Demand, ſunk under it.

With

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With the State of the Kingdom, that of the Theatre ſympathized; thin Audiences produce but thin Receipts; Debts conſequently were contracted; and the leſs Proſpect a Creditor has of being paid, the more importunate he is apt to be for his Money.

With the Credit of the Shop, the Credit of the Theatre, now looked upon as an Appendage to the Shop, failed alſo.

Mr. *Lacy*'s Situation was now become a very uneaſy one. According to the admired Expreſſion of a late glorious Commander, he had *Choice of Difficulties* to ſtruggle with. But his Candor and Integrity, like the other's Courage and Perſeverance, carried him through them all.

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He retained the Confidence of the Company, by convincing them he deſerved it; and in virtue of that Conviction, they adhered to him to the laſt.

One Attempt, indeed, was made to overturn him; which ſerving as a Specimen of theatrical Policy, may not prove altogether unentertaining to the Reader.

The Mortgagee came one Morning to the Theatre, and having collected the Company together, gave them to underſtand, they were to have no more Salary that Seaſon. By the Way, it was about the End of *January*, and, according to the Tenure of the Mortgage, there was but a ſmall Sum due to this Gentleman at that Time. This ſo unexpected a Declaration greatly aſtoniſhed the Actors.

Intelligence

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Intelligence was ſoon brought to Mr. *Lacy* of what had paſſed, and he as ſoon applied to the Mortgagee for an Explanation: announcing, as he had a Right to do, that he, the Mortgagee, muſt abide by all Conſequences; he having no Power to iſſue any Money either to Actor or Creditor, but by the Direction of Mr. *Lacy*, and being reſponſible to neither for any Debt or Demand.

Struck with this Repreſentation, and under ſome Pain, it may be ſuppoſed, for the Iſſue, the Mortgagee ſeemed to be much concerned for his Raſhneſs; and of his own Accord promiſed to continue the ſeveral Salaries, without ſtopping one Shilling more during the Seaſon; and he kept his Word.

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Mr. *Lacy*'s Buſineſs now was to communicate this good News to the Company, already convened at the *Roſe* Tavern, by a bad Man with a good Character; doubtleſs, to ſerve the Manager, by appeaſing the Storm, not to throw his Net while the Waters were troubled. This was done by Meſſage. They were told in Mr. *Lacy*'s Name, that all the Money which came into the Office, the Treaſurer would pay them till their Demands were ſatisfied, if that would do it. When one of the Company aſked how they could be aſſured of that; it was replied, as with one Voice, that they never doubted Mr. *Lacy*'s Word, and would chearfully rely upon it now.

And they had the Money.

But

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But to proceed with the Hiſtory of the Patent: Mr. *Riddle*, Mr. *Green*'s Father-in-law, Receiver for the County of *Bedford*, had an Extent in Aid for about 16,000*l.* againſt his Son, and his Son's Partner; and, among other Effects, had attached their Property in the Theatre, with a Deſign to ſell it to the beſt Bidder.

He ſignified this Deſign of his to Mr. *Lacy*, and not only ſo, but deſired him farther, to tranſact the Affair for him. Mr. *Lacy* undertook it accordingly; and thinking Mr. *Garrick*, on Account of his Abilities and Reputation, and Mr. *M—e*, on Account of his Connection with the Theatre, the pro-

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pereſt Perſons to be applied to, made a Tender of the two Shares, on ſuch Terms as, in the joint Opinion of all Parties, ſhould be thought reaſonable. But Mr. *M—e* replied, that Mr. *Garrick* would not be concerned in a third Part; probably, from an Apprehenſion, that the other two Proprietors might concur in laying him under diſagreeable Reſtraints.

Mr. *Lacy* then offered the Shares to Mr. *Ellis* of the Tower, who had always been tampering with the Theatres. But he, though ſtrongly inclined to the Thing, could not prevail on himſelf to part with the Means.

He

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He would not give 1000*l.* he would not give 800*l.* for it, excluſive of the Debts. In ſhort, it became manifeſt, that, unleſs he was permitted to ſet his own *no Price* upon it, he would not have it at all.

Somewhat piqued at this Manner of Proceeding, ſomewhat concerned for the Slight thus thrown on the Theatre, and as it may be preſumed, not anſwerable to the real Value of it, Mr. *Lacy* made an Offer to Mr. *Riddle* to pay off the Mortgage, as well as the other Debts of the Theatre, which together amounted to 12,000*l.* excluſive of Mr. *Fleetwood*'s Annuity, if he would join his Intereſt with him in procuring

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a new Patent, to commence at the Expiration of the old.

It is proper here to remark, that the Cloaths, Scenes, *&c. &c. &c.* of a Theatre, which coſt ſuch an immenſe Sum, are of little Value, without a Power properly to make uſe of them, they being calculated for theatrical Purpoſes only.

To this Propoſal Mr. *Riddle* agreed; and Mr. *Lacy*, in Conſequence, became a Suitor to his Grace the late Duke of *Grafton*, as Lord Chamberlain, for the Favour ſpecified.

His Grace's Reply was to this Effect: That he ſaw no Injury reſulting from

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who was not the leſs favourable to him, becauſe Mr. *Roberts*, his Secretary, loſt no Opportunity of inforcing his Suit.

He was obliged to them all, and, to do him Juſtice, he never loſes any Opportunity of manifeſting his Gratitude.

There was yet another Circumſtance, which, it is not altogether improbable, was of ſome little Weight in Mr. *Lacy*'s Scale.

It hath been often remarked, that the Duke of *G——n* paid a particular Regard to thoſe Families which had ſuffered in the Cauſe of King *Charles* I. and it was not unknown to his Grace, that the *Lacys* of *Ireland*,

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from ſuch a Renewal to any Body; on the contrary, it would be of Service to many. Therefore, if he, *Lacy*, would make good his Propoſal to *Riddle*, the King's Receiver, he would lay the Affair before his Majeſty.

It is, however, true, that Mr. *Lacy* had many great and powerful Patrons beſides, who did him the Honour of their good Offices. The late Lady *B———n*, who was a Friend to no Body by Halves, engaged the then Marquis of *H———n* to ſupport him with all his Intereſt; and to *his* Goodneſs he owed the Countenance of the late Duke of *D———e* his Father, and the Concurrence of the Treaſury, then under the Direction of Mr. *P——m*, who

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Ireland, from whom the Gentleman we are ſpeaking of was deſcended, were abſolutely ruined by their Attachment to that Monarch: having loſt a vaſt Eſtate, and been forced to follow Fortune in almoſt all the different Services of *Europe*. And though his Grandfather married the Daughter of *John Ruſſel* and *Grace Cromwell*, it does not appear, that the Duke ſuffered his Antipathies to get the better of his Affections.

To conclude: Mr. *Lacy* having thus carried his great Point, and finding it neceſſary to have an Aſſociate, was directed, by his Prudence, to Mr. *Garrick*. In his *Ranelagh* Scheme, it had been his Misfortune to be yoked with a wicked one, which was the Reaſon of his quitting it. Mr. *Garrick* had Money, Reputation, and Ability,

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Ability, all were Requiſites. Mr. *Lacy* made the Advance; Mr. *Garrick*, by the Advice of his Friends, accepted it, and had his Name inſerted in the new Patent. Both were to be equal Sharers in the Profits, with an Exception to the Conſiderations allowed Mr. *Garrick* as a Performer. It was, I think, in the Year 1747, that their Partnerſhip commenced; and it has continued ever ſince with all the Appearance of Harmony and Friendſhip †. Mr. *Garrick*,

† On this Occaſion the following Prologue was ſpoken by Mr. *Garrick*, at the Opening the Theatre in *Drury-lane*, 1747. Written by Mr. *Samuel Johnſon*.

When Learning's Triumph o'er her barb'rous Foes
Firſt rear'd the Stage, immortal *Shakeſpeare* roſe;
Each Change of many-colour'd Life he drew,
Exhauſted Worlds, and then imagined new:
Exiſtence ſaw him ſpurn her bounded reign,
And panting Time toil'd after him in vain:
His pow'rful Strokes preſiding Truth impreſs'd,
And unreſiſted Paſſion ſtorm'd the Breaſt.

Then

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Garrick, deſervedly conſidered as the Head of his Profeſſion, is ſure to have crowded Audiences as often as he appears; and Mr. *Lacy* has ſhewn as much Addreſs in inlarging

Then *Johnſon* came, inſtructed from the School,
To pleaſe in Method, and invent by Rule;
His ſtudious Patience, and laborious Art,
By regular Approach eſſay'd the Heart;
Cold Approbation gave the ling'ring Bays,
For thoſe who durſt not cenſure, ſcarce could praiſe.
A Mortal born, he met the general Doom,
But left, like *Egypt*'s Kings, a laſting Tomb.

The Wits of *Charles* found eaſier Ways to Fame,
Nor wiſh'd for *Johnſon*'s Art, or *Shakeſpeare*'s Flame;
Themſelves they ſtudied, as they felt they writ,
Intrigue was Plot, Obſcenity was Wit.
Vice always found a ſympathetic Friend,
They pleas'd their Age, and did not aim to mend.
Yet Bards like theſe aſpir'd to laſting Praiſe,
And proudly hop'd to pimp in future Days.
Their Cauſe was gen'ral, their Supports were ſtrong,
Their Slaves were willing, and their Reign was long;
'Till Shame regain'd the Poſt that Senſe betray'd,
And Virtue call'd Oblivion to her Aid.

Then cruſh'd by Rules, and weaken'd as refin'd,
For Years the Pow'r of Tragedy declin'd;
From Bard to Bard the frigid Caution crept,
Till Declamation roar'd, while Paſſion ſlept.

Yet

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inlarging * the Houſe to receive them, and in rendering the Avenues to it commo-

Yet ſtill did Virtue deign the Stage to tread,
Philoſophy remain'd, though Nature fled.
But forc'd at length her ancient Reign to quit,
She ſaw great *Fauſtus* lay the Ghoſt of Wit:
Exulting Folly hail'd the joyful Day,
And Pantomime and Song confirm'd her Sway.
But who the coming Changes can preſage,
And mark the future Periods of the Stage?
Perhaps (for who can gueſs th' Effects of Chance?)
Here *Hunt* may box, or *Mahomet* may dance.
Hard is his Lot, that here by Fortune plac'd,
Muſt watch the wild Viciſſitudes of Taſte,
With ev'ry Meteor of Caprice muſt play,
And chace the new-blown Bubbles of the Day.
Ah! let not Cenſure term our Fate our Choice,
The Stage but ecchoes back the public Voice,
The Drama's Laws the Drama's Patrons give,
For we that live to pleaſe, muſt pleaſe to live.
Then prompt no more the Follies you decry,
As Tyrants doom their Tools of guilt to die;
'Tis yours this Night to bid the Reign commence
Of reſcu'd Nature and reviving Senſe;
To chaſe the Charms of Sound, the Pomp of Show,
For uſeful Mirth, and ſalutary Woe;
Bid ſcenic Virtue form the riſing Age,
And Truth diffuſe her Radiance from the Stage.

* The Houſe will now contain near 40 *l.* more than it did before.

dious,

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dious, as he did in procuring and extending the Patent.

In ſhort, they ſeem to be ſuitable Aſſociates for each other; and, as the Company has thriven under their Management, and all are juſtly and duly conſidered according to their Merits, it is but fair to preſume, that none would be ſuch Enemies to themſelves as to wiſh for a Change of either of their Maſters.

The Theatres of *London* have, long ſince, claim'd the Attention of the beſt Authors, and of the Public: but thoſe of *Dublin* were ſo ill directed after the Deaths of *Aſhbury* and *Elrington*, that few Performers of any Degree of Eminence either aroſe, or reſorted thither before the Year 1740, and dramatic Performances untill about that Period,

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riod, were ſunk into Contempt, and almoſt wholly loſt.

I am of Opinion the hiſtorical Occurrences of the Theatres in *Dublin* for theſe fourteen Years paſt, will prove a ſurprizing, as well as an entertaining Narration to the Public: and it is in my Power to relate ſeveral curious Anecdotes, which probably, would never have appeared from any other hand.

On the 20th of *January*, 1745-6, I went over to *Ireland* to balance my Accounts with thoſe Manufacturers I had lately had dealings with in the *Iriſh* Linen Trade, in which I had been largely engaged in *London*. When I arrived in *Dublin* I found my good Friend Mr. *Garrick* at the Theatre-Royal, with Mr. *Sheridan*, as Sharers and Adven-

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Adventurers; and Mr. *Barry* engaged at a Salary by the Proprietors. There were ſeveral Tragedies in which I had the Pleaſure of ſeeing theſe three Performers appear together, as in *the* FAIR PENITENT, *Garrick* acted *Lothario*, *Sheridan Horatio*, and *Barry Altamont:* and I doubt not but I am greatly envied that Happineſs; but muſt obſerve, that this was fourteen Years ago. One of them was then a young Actor; and even the other two are remarkably improved. To ſee them all now in one Play, would be a Pleaſure greatly to be envied! but I muſt admit that *Garrick*, even then, was eminent in his *Lear* and *Richard.* Mr. *Garrick* and I left *Dublin* the third Day of *May*, and arrived in *London* the tenth. My pleaſant fellow Traveller agreed directly with Mr. *Rich* for the Performance of ſix Plays, the latter End of that Month, the Profits of which

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which were divided between them, by which ſix Plays *Garrick* added three hundred Pounds to a great Sum got the preceding Seaſon in *Dublin*.

On the eleventh of *October*, 1746, I returned to *Dublin* with my Family, to ſettle in that City.

Soon after my Arrival I made a Viſit to the late honourable Colonel *Thomas Butler* (Brother to the preſent Earl of *Laneſborough*) who was one of the leading Proprietors of the united Theatres. I ſoon began an Enquiry into the State of Theatrical Affairs. The Colonel aſk'd me if I had any Terms to offer? that the Proprietors would be glad to treat with me, if I had any Propoſals to make for myſelf. My Reply was, that ſince I found Mr. *She-*

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Sheridan determined to remain in *Dublin* as an Actor, and Manager, it was safer, and better for me to *engage with him*, than to think of an Oppoſition to one who was the beſt Actor there, and who had a natural Intereſt to ſupport him; beſides, I had ſome Money which I feared to looſe. I therefore accepted of the Office of Treaſurer, and Deputy Manager; and from an agreeable, happy Manner in Mr. *Sheridan*'s Addreſs, to thoſe he wiſhes to engage, I very ſoon contracted a perſonal Love for him; which is the ſure, and only Baſis for a faithful Friendſhip.

On his Side I had the Pleaſure of being reſpected and conſidered by him as a Perſon very capable of aſſiſting him in his new Government, and my Vanity will not let me ſuppreſs the firſt Proof that I gave of it.

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it. Before the Theatre was opened, as I knew the Weakneſs of the Company, and that there was no one but himſelf and Miſs *Bellamy*, in the leaſt Degree of Reputation; it was therefore proper to revive ſuch Plays as could be ſupported by two Characters. I recommended the *Romeo* and *Juliet* of *Shakeſpear*; to which Mr. *Sheridan* prefer'd the *Much Ado about Nothing* of the ſame Author, and accordingly got it up; but from its firſt Appearance there, to the laſt Seaſon, it has fully anſwered its Name, in regard to him as Manager: I ſtill perſiſted in my Choice of *Romeo*. He then conſulted Mr. *Chetwood* (then Prompter) about reviving *Otway*'s *Caius Marius*, where that Author has borrowed the *Romeo* and *Juliet*, and introduced them under the Names of young *Marius* and *Lavinia*) but that Tragedy had (very fortunately for him) too many

many Characters for his little Company; and thus *Romeo* and *Juliet* was at laſt brought on, and proved the *only* ſucceſsful Play of the Seaſon. The two Characters were then (fourteen Years ago) well adapted; and greatly encreaſed the Reputation of the Performers. The Succeſs of that Tragedy occaſioned its Revival in *London*, at both Theatres, where it was equally followed and admired.

But notwithſtanding the Succeſs of *Romeo* (which was performed nine Nights to great Houſes, an extraordinary thing then in *Dublin*) the Profits of that Seaſon were likely to turn out but poorly; and would certainly have ended ſo, if a very fortunate Accident had not happened on the nineteenth of *January*, at the Performance of *Æſop*; on the happy Event of which the Manager

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Manager founded his Reputation, and future Fortune: though the Story is yet recent, it deſerves a very diſtinct Recital here.

I had often exclaimed loudly and publickly againſt the Indecency of the Scenes, by the Admiſſion of every Idler that had a laced Coat: the Youths of the College were in the Cuſtom of crouding to every Morning Rehearſal. I have ſeen the Actors and Actreſſes rehearſing within a Circle of forty or fifty of thoſe young Gentlemen, whoſe Time ought to have been better employed.

I writ ſeveral Pages on this Subject, to prove that a well regulated Theatre would be an Honour, as well as an Advantage to the Kingdom; that it would not fail, at once, to give Strangers an high Opinion of their

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their good Senſe and Politeneſs; and, at the ſame time, accommodate the Nobility and Gentry with that Entertainment, which they had not only a Right to enjoy, but which, if they were diſappointed here, they would certainly remove to another Kingdom to obtain. That therefore it was highly neceſſary the Legiſlature ſhould take the Theatre under their Protection, and ſecure it from the Inſults of wanton and diſſolute Men.

I propoſed ſeveral Methods for the redreſſing theſe Grievances; which were all objected to by the Manager, as too dangerous to be executed in *Dublin:* His common reply was, " *You forget* " *yourſelf, you think you are on Engliſh* " *Ground.*"

Thus

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Thus it remain'd, till the happy Conſequence of the Accident I am going to relate, which brought on an effectual Redreſs.

A young Gentleman, on the nineteenth of *January*, 1746-7, went, enflamed with Wine, to the Pit (an Indecency at that Time too frequent there) and climbing over the Spikes on the Stage, very ſoon made his Way to the Green Room, where he addreſſed one of the Actreſſes in ſuch indecent Terms aloud, as made them all fly to their dreſſing Rooms. He purſued one of them thither, but being repulſed by the Door, he made ſuch a Noiſe there, as diſturbed the Buſineſs of the Scenes. Miſs *Bellamy*, whom he purſued, was then wanted on the Stage, but could not come out for fear of this Dragon. Mr. *Sheridan* (who

was

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was then in the Character of *Æſop*) went to the Door, attended by the Servants and a Guard, and ordered them to take that Gentleman away, and conduct him to the Pit from whence he came. This was done without the leaſt Buſtle, or Obſtruction on the Part of the Gentleman; but when he arrived in the Pit, he took a Baſket from one of the Orange Women, and when the Manager came on the Stage, he took the beſt Aim he could at him with the Oranges: one of which taking Place, the Actor addreſſed the Audience (which happened to be but thin that Night) for Protection. As there were ſome Gentlemen in the Pit who were acquainted with the Rioter, they ſilenced him with ſome Difficulty, but not 'till ſeveral abuſive Names had paſſed from him, ſuch as Scoundrel and Raſcal: And Mr. *Sheridan* (who in general ſpoke with great

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Propriety) was ſo much diſconcerted, as to ſay "*I am as good a Gentleman as you are*;" and theſe Words were the next Day altered thus, "*I am as good a Gentleman as any* "*in the Houſe.*"

After the Play, this young Hero went out of the Pit, and found his Way to Mr. *Sheridan*'s Dreſſing Room, and there to his Face, before his Servants, called him the ſame abuſive Names, which of Courſe provoked him to give him ſome Blows, which the Gentleman took very patiently; and by Means of another Falſhood (that *Sheridan*'s Servants in the Room held him while their Maſter beat him) the Club of his Companions, to whom he went that Night with his broken Noſe, and other Grievances, were ſo animated and incenſed, that *a ſcoundrel Player ſhould beat a* GENTLEMAN;

MAN; that a Party was directly formed: A powerful fighting Party, and the next Day all Perſons were threatened openly in every Coffee-houſe that dared to look as if they inclined to take the Part of *Sheridan.*

His Name being on the Bills ſome Days after, to perform *Horatio*, ſeveral Letters, Cards, and Meſſages, were ſent to him, warning him not to leave his Houſe that Evening, and to take particular Care to be well guarded even there. He followed that friendly Advice: And when Mr. *Dyer* went on the Stage to apologize for his not performing the Part, and to acquaint the Audience with his Reaſons, at that Inſtant, about fifty of the Party, with the young Hero at their Head, roſe in the Pit, and climbing over the Spikes on the Stage, ran directly to the Green

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Room, from thence to all the Dreſſing Rooms, broke thoſe open that were locked; ran up to the Wardrobe, and thruſt their Swords into all the Cheſts, and Preſſes of Clothes, by way of *feeling*, they ſaid, if *Sheridan* was concealed there. After many of theſe Violences, a Party went off to his Houſe; but, upon finding he had provided for their Reception, they thought proper to retire.

This Tranſaction was on a *Thurſday* Night; the next Day was ſpent in furious Parties, and violent Threatenings in all public Places. On the *Saturday* Morning the following Letter appeared in *Faulkner*'s *Journal*, which I wrote, and publiſhed there, unknown even to the Manager.

To

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To Mr. FAULKNER.

SIR, *Dublin, Jan.* 25, 1746-7.

" As the Character and Conduct of Mr. " *Sheridan* are by a late unhappy Accident " become the univerſal Topic of all Con- " verſation in this Metropolis, I am there- " fore induced, by a late Intimacy with " him, to give the Public, by your Paper, " a Portrait of this Actor.

" He is the Son of the late Reverend " Doctor *Sheridan*, a Gentleman that was " well known in this Kingdom: This, " his Son, was ſent early in Life to *Weſt-* " *minſter* School in *London*; and when fit- " ted for the Univerſity, was entered of " this College, and Claſs-Fellow with moſt " of the Nobility and Gentry of this King-

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" dom of his Time, and took his Degree
" there of Batchelor of Arts. Well then,
" he was born, and has had the Education
" of, a GENTLEMAN. Ay, but ſays the
" Herald, he *degraded* himſelf when his
" Fortunes, as well as his ſingular Abili-
" ties, led him to the Stage. It may be
" ſo. Though in my private Thoughts,
" that Opinion, though general, is like
" many others that are too eaſily received
" by Mankind, and built on a falſe Hy-
" potheſis. However, that I may not ap-
" pear too ſingular, it ſhall be granted.
" Well then, let us view him in this de-
" graded Light, becauſe this Survey will
" beſt ſerve my preſent Purpoſe.

" All the *Gentlemen* I have hitherto met
" with, when degraded, have been loſt to
" *Virtue*, and have fallen a Sacrifice to

" *thoſe*

" thoſe Paſſions and Vices that drew them
" from the Path of Honour: But this
" young Man (as a Proof that his For-
" tunes alone threw him into this degrad-
" ed Light) remains in his moral Charac-
" ter, unſullied.

" As the Manager of the Theatre (ſince
" that has been his Province) his Ambi-
" tion has been to cultivate good Man-
" ners and Decency, and his Labours and
" good Example have hitherto been at-
" tended with good Succeſs. The Actors
" live in unuſual Harmony, and have pur-
" ſued their Buſineſs with the utmoſt Re-
" gularity; they are rewarded with their
" Salaries; Tradeſmens Bills are now
" punctually paid, and the Town (it is
" univerſally confeſſed) has been better en-
" tertained this Winter than was ever

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" known by ſo thin a Company of toler-
" able Actors; to what can this be owing
" but to the good Conduct and Ability of
" the Manager?

" In his preſent Profeſſion, I may ſay,
" without Flattery or Partiality, that when
" we conſider the variety of Characters he
" appears in, he is arrived at an amazing
" Degree of Perfection for his Years.

" In private Life, when his Labours
" have bleſt him with Succeſs, I have
" known him take more Pleaſure in aſſiſt-
" ing his Relations and diſtreſſed Friends,
" than the fineſt Gentleman can pretend to
" enjoy in conſuming the Bounties of For-
" tune. But what avail theſe Qualities,
" theſe muſty moral Qualities? He has
" offended, it ſeems, ſome GENTLEMEN;

" and

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" and how? Why, in doing his Duty as
" Manager of the Theatre, he met with
" an unexpected and violent Inſult from a
" ſingle Perſon in the Pit (one whom he
" was obliged to order from behind the
" Scenes for his indecent Behaviour there)
" at a Time when he was receiving the
" Applauſes of the Audience in the Cha-
" racter of *Æſop*. In this Surprize he was
" compelled to make an Addreſs to the
" People, and in that Diſorder of Mind,
" it ſeems, he made uſe of *one indecent*
" *Word*, that to theſe nice Gentlemen was
" exceptionable. Now, can any thing be
" more likely than to ſuppoſe, in that Con-
" fuſion, *he forgot he was a degraded Man?*

" Let us ſuppoſe any one of his Gentle-
" men Adverſaries ſurprized into a Neceſ-
" ſity of addreſſing a public Aſſembly;

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" How few are there out of a much larger
" Body, that could ſpeak, on ſuch an Oc-
" caſion, *unexceptionably?* Alas, how few!
" But though I did not hear Mr. *Sheridan*
" that Night, I can ſafely depend on the
" Judgment of two or three Gentlemen of
" *Senſe* and *Honour*, who told me that his
" Behaviour (though provoked) was far
" from indecent or improper.

" However, it was by ſome Gentlemen,
" it ſeems, thought otherwiſe; and *one*
" *Word* was diſplaced, and for that, what
" had like to have been his Puniſhment!
" Why he was very near wanting all the
" Surgeons in *Dublin* to dreſs his Wounds.
" *O Tempora! O Mores!*

" In *London*, in the Year 1722, a Riot
" was committed at the Theatre in *Lincoln's*
" *Inn*

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" *Inn Fields*, by a ſet of profligate young " Men of Quality, which ſhut up that " Play-houſe for eight or nine Days. But " the Legiſlature (by the King's Direction) " entered ſo warmly into the Affair, that " the Rioters thought proper to make the " ſuffering Manager ample Satisfaction; " and his Majeſty ordered a Guard to at- " tend that Theatre from this Accident, " which Mr. *Rich* enjoys to this Day.

" At the laſt Riot in *Drury-lane* Theatre, " in 1743, his Majeſty was pleaſed to give " the ſame Direction. And the LORD " CHIEF JUSTICE *Lee* declared from the " Bench, it was his Opinion, that a *conti-* " *nual Hiſſing was a manifeſt Breach of the* " *Peace, as it was the Beginning of a Riot.*

" As

" As the People of this Nation are un-
" der the ſame gracious Sovereign, and
" protected by the ſame Laws; and as our
" chief Magiſtrates are Perſons of the high-
" eſt Honour and Integrity, now is the
" Time to aſſert your LIBERTIES, and
" prove yourſelves as free-born Subjects as
" your Brethren of *England*.

" I am, SIR,

" Your humble Servant."

Thus was the firſt Blow ſtruck, and the Paper War opened: The Tendency of this early Letter was to ſet People right as to " Facts, and to give a favourable, though " juſt, Impreſſion of Mr. *Sheridan*."

I dare affirm, that within the Month (the Time this Diſpute laſted) there were as many

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many Pamphlets publiſhed as would make a large Octavo Volume. The whole City, nay, the whole Kingdom, were engaged in this Quarrel, which not only threatened the Ruin of all whoſe Bread was depending on the Theatre, but the Lives and Fortunes of many without Doors, who were ſo raſh as to engage publicly in the Affair; which was nothing more than the Honour of an Actor: But his Cauſe was a noble one, a Defence of Decency, and the Decorum of the Stage; in which he was ſupported by all Perſons of Worth and Honour, and by the Laws of his Country.

On this Occaſion a moſt noble Spirit was raiſed and diffuſed throughout the City, I may ſay, the whole Kingdom, with great Rapidity. This Spirit firſt ſhewed itſelf at the Repreſenting the Tragedy of *Richard*

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Richard the Third, advertiſed for the firſt Trial-Play after the grand Riot; and as it was the firſt Inſtance where the Rights of the Audience, and the Duty and Privileges of the Actors were freely aſſerted, it deſerves particular Relation here.

When the Play was advertiſed, loud Menaces were uttered againſt the Manager, and a general Declaration that he ſhould never be permitted to play 'till he had made a proper Submiſſion. But the Lovers of Liberty, and a free Theatre, were not to be deprived of their favourite Entertainment, by the capricious Humour of any ſet of Men; and as they looked upon theſe menacing Dictates as ſo many open Inſults to the Laws and to the Public, they, therefore reſolved to oppoſe theſe Sons of Riot and Revenge, to the utmoſt.

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The chief Inhabitants began, at this Juncture, to aſſemble; and reſolved to encourage and protect the Manager. Several Citizens, who ſeldom were ſeen in the Theatre, were ſo ſenſible of the Advantages and Importance of a well regulated Stage, that they declared to Mr. *Sheridan* and his Friends, that they would now more than ever appear there, and doubted not being able to protect the Manager, and the Actors in general, in the Diſcharge of their Duty.

With Aſſurances of this Kind, and a Conſciouſneſs of his being in the Right, Mr. *Sheridan* conſented to the Performance of *Richard*. The Houſe filled earlier than uſual. There was a conſiderable Appearance of Ladies, Gentlemen, and Citizens of Eminence, and no ſmall Number of the

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the Youths of the Univerſity. Theſe were diſperſed throughout the Theatre, but chiefly in the Pit; yet in ſuch a Manner, that thoſe who beſt knew Faces, could ſee no Room to ſuſpect any thing like a concerted Aſſembly, however they might afterwards have been found to agree in Sentiments.

Whether the GENTLEMEN were acquainted with this Diſpoſition of the Audience or not, is not certain, but it will appear they were not prepared for the Reception which their riotous Propoſals received. They came to the Houſe late, and in ſmall, but well known Groupes, and placed themſeves chiefly in the Boxes. Their Leaders either were not in Town, or had not Time to collect themſelves and ſettle their Plan of Operation.

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The Play opened with great Quietneſs; but at the latter End of the firſt Act, when *Richard* appeared, a confuſed Noiſe was heard from different Parts, but chiefly from the Boxes, of a *Submiſſion*, a *Submiſſion*, *Submiſſion*, *off*, *off*, *off*; Mr. *Sheridan* advanced with reſpectful Bows to the Audience, but was prevented ſpeaking, by louder and more diſtinct Sounds of *no Submiſſion*, *no Submiſſion*; *go on with the Play.*

It was in this Conjuncture that a CITIZEN, then well known for his Struggles for Liberty in the City, roſe up in the Pit, and aſſerted the Rights of the Audience, and the Freedom of the Stage. He expreſſed his Aſtoniſhment and Deteſtation of Men's bringing their *private* Quarrels with Managers or Players into the Theatre, and ſuch, he apprehended the preſent

ſent Caſe to be; but ſince the Diſpute was introduced, it muſt, like other Diſputes there, be determined by the Majority; he preſumed every ſober Perſon in the Houſe came to receive the Entertainment promiſed in the Bills, for which he paid his Money at the Door. The Actors then, he obſerved, were the Servants of the Audience, and under their Protection during that Performance, and he looked upon every Inſult or Interruption given to them in the Diſcharge of their Duty, as offered to the Audience. He apprehended the matter in diſpute was no Breach of the Duty of the Manager or Actors, cognizable to any perſons preſent; but whether it was ſo, or thought otherwiſe by the Houſe, the Queſtion might eaſily be determined. He therefore moved, that thoſe who were for preſerving the Decency and Freedom of

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the Stage, ſhould diſtinguiſh themſelves by the holding up of Hands; judging that when they ſhould come to know their Numbers and Superiority, they would ſilence or turn out their Opponents.

He was heard with great Reſpect, and ſaluted with Shouts of Applauſe; but on the Diviſion, the Numbers were ſo great againſt the Rioters, and, withal, appeared ſo animated for Action, that the Majority ſuddenly went off, and left the Performance of that Night in quiet.

The *Gentlemen* were greatly incenſed at this Repulſe, and now they reſolved upon further Vengeance on the Manager, and all that dared protect him. He was now never to be permitted, on any Account,

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to perform again, and thoſe who took his Part were doomed to Deſtruction.

The firſt Perſon they ſingled out was the CITIZEN, who ſpoke in the Defence of the Rights of the Audience and the Stage. A Number of thoſe genteel Rioters aſſaulted him one Night ſoon after this in the Streets. Next day he publiſhed an Advertiſement, which was diſtributed all over the City, ſetting forth, that a Number of rude, diſorderly Perſons, in the Habits of Gentlemen, who had for ſometime paſt infeſted the public Places of the City, and diſturbed the Peace of the Theatre, had aſſaulted the CITIZEN, who offered a Reward of five Pounds to be paid on the apprehending and convicting any of thoſe Offenders: This encreaſed the Threatenings againſt him, which had

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no other Effect than to make a Man of a Profeſſion, unuſed to the wearing offenſive Weapons, to go armed with a Sword and Piſtols. This was the Man who inſpired that PATRIOT SPIRIT, which was attended with good Conſequences, at leaſt to this Cauſe. He always lived beloved, and by his Perſeverance in Virtue, and by his own ſuperior Abilities, he is, *at leaſt*, HONOURED and rewarded.

There was an annual Play appointed before this Riot began, *The Fair Penitent*, for the Benefit of the *Hoſpital for Incurables*; and the Governors, who were all Perſons of Conſequence, demanded the Performance of their Benefit Play: And ſent the Manager Word (who was to perform the Part of *Horatio)* that they would take upon them to defend him that Night; reſting aſſured,

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aſſured, no ſet of Men would oppoſe a Charity Play, eſpecially as all the Ladies of Quality exerted their Intereſt, and were to honour it with their Preſence. The Bills were accordingly poſted up, and the Governors went early to the Theatre, with their white Wands; the Boxes and Pit would have been filled with Ladies, if about thirty Gentlemen had not taken early Poſſeſſion of the Middle of two or three Benches near the Spikes of the Orcheſtra. There were above an hundred Ladies ſeated on the Stage, and when the Curtain drew up nothing could equal the brilliant Appearance of the Houſe. At the Entrance of Mr. *Sheridan* (who had the Honour of being uſhered in by the Governors) thoſe thirty Men, all armed, roſe up in the Pit and ordered him off; and they were joined by ſome few placed in both Galleries.

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Galleries. *Sheridan* withdrew, and then violent Diſputes and Threatenings began between the Governors on the Stage, and the Gentlemen in the Pit, and ſomething very like Challenges paſſed between ſeveral of them, as all the Perſons on both Sides were publicly known. Among the Governors, was a Student of the College, in his Batchelor's Gown, who behaved with ſome Warmth againſt thoſe who oppoſed the Play; and a Gentleman (near the Spikes) in the Pit threw an Apple at him, called him Scoundrel, and (as he declared) ſaid *they were all a Pack of Scoundrels.* Away flew the Scholar like a feathered Mercury to the College (the diſtance half a Mile) and retured in about twenty Minutes, with about as many Youths armed for the Combat; but as the Affront was not given 'till the Houſe

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was Half empty, the Rioters had moſt fortunately all left the Pit a very few Minutes before the Scholars arrived; Search was made after them at moſt of the Taverns that Night, but in vain; however, when they returned to the College, they called a Council of War, which held all Night: And as ſoon as the Gates were opened in the Morning, out they all ſallied, armed, and diſperſed in large Parties to beſet the different Lodgings of the Rioters. Theſe Detachments ſtruck ſuch a Terror in all concerned in the Oppoſition, and ſeemed to threaten ſuch Miſchief, that ſeveral Shops were kept ſhut in the great Streets: But as the chief Aim of the Scholars was to ſecure the Perſon who had inſulted their whole Body, and as that Gentleman was juſt come from the Country,

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he was not eaſily found; during this ſingle Purſuit, ſeveral of the Leaders in the Oppoſition fled with Fear and Trembling to the Court of Chancery, where my Lord Chancellor was ſitting, and begged his Lordſhip's Protection againſt the Scholars. Thus the Morning was employed in finding out and ſecuring this principal Offender, which was not effected till Eleven o' Clock, when he was ſecured and carried to the College. The greateſt Party then proceeded in Search of another Delinquent at the upper End of *Caple-ſtreet*, and went to the Houſe of a Gentleman of Three Thouſand a Year, demanding his Son, a young Officer, who lived with him; and after ſeveral difficult, as well as dangerous Attacks, (the Houſe being defended by a good Number of Servants) they made a

Breach, entered, and brought out their Priſoner, put him in a Hackney Coach, and guarded him in Triumph to the College. Great Care was taken by one or two of the Principals, (who ſecretly aided the Enterprize) that no extravagant Puniſhment ſhould be inflicted on their Priſoners. The firſt, and greateſt Offender was compelled to kneel down on his bare Knees in all the Courts of the College, and to repeat a Form they had prepared for him; the other was excuſed kneeling, only read his Submiſſion, and aſked Pardon of the College.

And thus the Affair ended, as to that learned Body, who only interfered in Regard to themſelves, not in the Manager's Quarrel; and not only the whole City, but

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but their good PROVOST, approved of their Conduct *.

The LORDS JUSTICES now thought proper to order the *Maſter of the Revels* to ſhut up the Theatre by his Authority; which was accordingly done. This was a wiſe and prudent Step, becauſe the Theatre was made the Seat of War.

And now the Lawyers enjoy'd the Quarrel. The young Gentleman who began this, was taken up for aſſaulting Mr. *Sheridan*, and for the Miſchief done at the Theatre in the Dreſſing-Rooms and Wardrobe. And the Manager was indicted for aſſaulting and beating the Gentleman,

* I muſt here alſo obſerve, that, to my Knowledge, ſome very worthy Perſons were engaged in the Oppoſition to Mr. *Sheridan*, from falſe Repreſentations made to them by deſigning Men.

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on the 19th of *January*, in his Dreſſing-Room. Various were the Reports and Wagers on the Events of theſe Trials; I was laughed to Scorn, for believing a *Jury* could be found in *Dublin* that would find a GENTLEMAN *guilty!* This ſounded frightful in the Ears of an *Engliſhman:* But when the Time drew near, the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE *MARLAY* ſent for the High Sheriff, and directed him to make out and bring a Liſt of ſufficient and *able Jurors* to his Lordſhip. This Meſſage was immediately ſpread through the City; and as the uſual iniquitous Practices of *Under Sheriffs* and *packed Jurors* were intended for this Cauſe, the Diſappointment ſtruck ſuch a Panic in the whole Party, that they gave themſelves up as undone from that Circumſtance.

The

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The Day appointed for the Trials of both Parties came on. Mr. *Sheridan* appeared as the firſt Culprit, and was tried for aſſaulting and beating the Gentleman. A moſt heinous Offence! But it appearing fully to the Jury, on the Oaths of three or four Men, whoſe Honeſty was unqueſtioned, that the Gentleman gave the Manager ſuch provoking, abuſive Language in his Dreſſing-Room, as compelled him to beat him out of it, and that no other Perſon touched him, the Jury acquitted the Priſoner, without going out of the Box.

Then the GENTLEMAN appeared at the Bar; and many were the Witneſſes examined; for ſo many Perſons are employed behind the Scenes of a well-eſtabliſhed

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Theatre, that there were a Multitude of Witneſſes to prove the Facts charged in the Indictment. In the Courſe of the Trial, Mr. *Sheridan* was called upon the Table; when he was there, anſwering the Queſtions propoſed to him by the Court and the Bench, a very learned Councellor, on the Side of the Priſoner, got up, and ſaid, " *He wanted to ſee a Curioſity. I have* " *often ſeen* (continued he) *a Gentleman* " *Soldier, and a Gentleman Taylor; but I* " *have never ſeen a Gentleman Player.*" Mr. *Sheridan* (who was well dreſſed) bowed modeſtly, and ſaid, " *Sir, I hope you ſee* " *one now.*"

Mr. Juſtice *Ward* tried both the Cauſes in the Preſence of the *Lord Chief Juſtice*, and a full Bench; who all ſeemed inſpired with the noble Spirit of the Chief Juſtice,

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to do all in their Power to puniſh thoſe Deſtroyers of public Liberty! His Lordſhip ordered his Tipſtaff to whiſper a Gentleman Leader he ſaw in Court, againſt whom Complaints had been laid of his bad Behaviour in Public, to meet him in his Chamber when he left the Bench; where his Lordſhip obliged him to give Bail for his future good Behaviour. In ſhort, the JURY found the GENTLEMAN Priſoner GUILTY; and the Sentence was a Fine of 500*l.* and three Months Impriſonment. And after the Sentence was given, the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE was pleaſed to obſerve, that Attention ſhould be chiefly given to the Conduct of thoſe Gentlemen at the Theatre, as that was the Place of public Reſort; and added, *that any Perſon who forced his Way behind the Scenes*, WHERE MONEY WAS NOT TAKEN, if that

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Perſon was apprehended, and brought into that Court, and the Fact proved there, he ſhould feel the utmoſt Severity of the Law.

When theſe Law-ſuits were firſt commenced, nothing was talked of but the Hundreds that were ſubſcribed to carry it on for the Gentleman; yet when the Truth was obliged to appear, not one Farthing was ſubſcribed, and the whole Party left this diſtreſſed Offender to the Mercy of his Adverſaries; who, when he was thoroughly ſenſible of his Error, and had ſuffered a Week's Confinement, at laſt applied to Mr. *Sheridan*, who inſtantly ſolicited the Government to relinquiſh the Fine of 500*l.* which was granted him; and then became Solicitor and Bail himſelf to the Court of King's Bench,

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Bench, for the Enlargement of the young Gentleman.

Thus ample Redreſs was procured for the Manager, by obtaining that *Reſpect to be paid to the Scenes of the Theatre-Royal in Dublin*, which no other Theatre ever had the Happineſs to maintain; for, from that Hour, not even the firſt Man of Quality in the Kingdom ever aſked, or attempted, to get behind the Scenes; and before *that* happy Æra, every Perſon who was Maſter of a Sword, was ſure to draw it on the Stage-door-keeper, if he denied him Entrance.

Thus was the long uſurped Tyranny of a Set of wanton, diſſolute GENTLEMEN (the greateſt Nuſance that ever any City groaned under) effectually ſubdued, and

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the LIBERTIES *of the People recovered*, by a WORTHY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE AND AN HONEST JURY.

Whilſt I was in the Management of the Theatre-Royal, I took care to ſet a precious Value on that ineſtimable Jewel; and I hope the Managers of the Theatres in *Dublin*, to whom it was inviolably tranſmitted, will take due Care to preſerve it.

I am tempted here to quote that celebrated Speech of *Cato*'s on this important Occaſion, as it is ſo very applicable, almoſt without the Help of a Parodie, *viz.*

" Remember, O my Friends, the Law,
" the Rights,
" The Plan of Liberty deliver'd down,
" From

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" From us to you, by your renown'd
" Chief Juſtice!
" O let it never periſh in your Hands,
" But piouſly tranſmit it to your Children."

To return to the Buſineſs of the Theatre: The Manager went that enſuing Spring to *London*, fluſh'd with this happy Conqueſt, and there engaged Mr. *Woodward*, and the *Mechels*, (the beſt Dancers there) for the following Winter, 1747; theſe were profitable Bargains. *Woodward* had Merit both as a *Comedian* and *Harlequin*; he was diligent in his Buſineſs, and ſoon grew a Favourite of the Audience. This was a gainful Seaſon to the Manager, and indeed to the whole Company, whoſe Benefits were greatly aſſiſted by the Performances of *Woodward*, who was, at that Time, in great Reputation as a *Comedian*,

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median, *Harlequin*, and *Compoſer of Panto-mime*; and I believe the Manager had as much Expectation from his Abilities in the party-coloured Jacket, as in the Come-dies; he being, by Article, to get up two or three old Pantomimes, and one entirely new, at a limited Expence. The old En-tertainments, though better executed, ad-ded very little to the Receipts of the Houſes; and the new one, purſuant to Article, was brought forward in the Month of *February*, (after the Town had been properly prepared by Paragraphs and Advertiſements) to an Audience under an hundred Pounds! The *Fair Penitent* was given out, with the new Pantomime, for the *ſecond* Night, and though *Sheridan* and *Bellamy* (the two capital Performers) were in it, that new Play and Pantomime were performed to Twenty Pounds! I think that

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that very Pantomime was got up by Mr. *Woodward*, at his Return to *Drury-lane* Theatre, under the Title of *Queen Mab*; and performed there with great Succeſs. Mr. *Cibber*, in Page 422, treating on this Subject, ſays, " It may not therefore be " here improper to ſhew how our *childiſh* " *Pantomimes* firſt came to take ſo groſs a " Poſſeſſion of the Stage." [Then follows a Deſcription of them, which cloſes thus.] " But ſo it is, Truth may complain; and " Merit murmur with what Juſtice it " may; the Few will never be a Match " for the Many, unleſs Authority ſhould " think fit to interpoſe, and put down " theſe poetical Drams, theſe Gin-ſhops " of the Stage, that intoxicate its Au- " ditors, and *diſhonour their Underſtanding* " *with a Levity, for which I want a* " *Name!*"

I have

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I have quoted this Paſſage, and made this Obſervation, to do Honour to the Audiences of the City of *Dublin*, who will not diſgrace their Underſtandings, (as *Cibber* ſays) by giving Encouragement to Entertainments unfit for a *thinking People.* Another Proof was lately given, when a *new Pantomime*, in a *new Theatre*, ornamented with entire *new Scenes* and *Dreſſes*, and got up with the Report of great Expence, under the Auſpices of a Manager *Harlequin*, of great Reputation; nay, the greateſt, except one, now living! and yet there was ſtanding Room in the Pit the firſt Night of Performance! Now, this Neglect could not be owing to the Want of Merit in the Pantomime, becauſe that was then unknown, but to their entire Diſlike to ſuch childiſh Exhibitions; therefore,

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fore, let the Undertaker of ſuch a Scheme in *Dublin* tremble; he knows not how few Audiences there are to ſee the ſame Show. *London* has afforded, in one Seaſon, Ten Thouſand Pounds to a Pantomime, which coſt Three Thouſand. *Dublin*, to the ſame Pantomime, would not have given One Thouſand, and for the Reaſon already aſſigned.

At the End of *March* the Manager took another Trip to *London*, to provide for the following Seaſon, 1748; and left me, as before, in the moſt troubleſome Part of the Management; the appointing, ſettling, and ſecuring the Charge of the ſeveral Benefit Plays; a Buſineſs difficult to accommodate with ſo large a Body of People, at that Time, particularly devoted to their ſeparate Intereſts.

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The Manager, at this Expedition, inſtead of bringing over a profitable Freight as before, this Trip overloaded his Veſſel, even to the Danger of ſinking. He engaged Mr. and Mrs. *Macklin*, Mrs. *Vincent*, Mrs. *Bland*, (now *Hamilton)* Miſs *Minors*, Mr. *Mozeen*, and Mr. *Storer*; and in the muſical Way, Mr. *Lampe* and Wife, Signior *Paſquali*, Mr. *Sullivan*, Mr. *Howard*, Mrs. *Storer*, and Mrs. *Mozeen*. All this muſical Party were articled for two Years.

Mr. *Lampe* was a good Compoſer, and Signior *Paſquali* a fine Performer on the Violin; and ſome of the Singers in Reputation. But admitting all this to be true, what was the Conſequence? I attended carefully to the Product of this muſical Bargain;

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Bargain; and the Profits did not amount to the Sum paid for the Article of writing the Score for their Performances, which was over one hundred and Fifty Pounds! So that the Tot of their Salaries, which was near fourteen hundred Pounds a Year, was a dead Loſs to the Manager.

To this Calamity was added another of an extraordinary Nature; an Agreement (for two Years alſo) with Mr. *Macklin*, for eight hundred Pounds a Year, for his own and his Wife's Performances; and though in many Characters they were excellent, yet ſurely no one but a young Manager (who from the Fulneſs of his Heart, o'erflowing with Gratitude to the Public, was determined to provide them Entertainment at any Expence) would have given that Sum to the two beſt LOW COMEDIANS.

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DIANS in the Univerſe; their Stile of Characters could not deſerve it. *Macklin* is excellent in the *Jew*, *Scrub*, Sir *Paul Pliant*, Sir *Gilbert Wrangle*, &c. &c. but unleſs the Gentlemen and Ladies in thoſe Comedies are well performed alſo, who can ſee them with Pleaſure?

The Tragedian enjoys a better Fate, and can draw alone. If an eminent Name is in the Bills for *Hamlet*, *Richard*, *Othello*, *Lear*, the reſt of the Characters in thoſe Tragedies are ſeldom enquired after.

I am ſtopped here in my Progreſs, to make Way for an Anecdote of too much Importance to paſs unrecorded. *Henry Brooke*, Eſq. (the Author of *Guſtavus Vaſa*) having a Family, and ſome paternal Inheritance in this Kingdom, his Reſidence

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dence here was accounted for. At the Time of the laſt Rebellion in *Scotland*, he wrote the celebrated Farmer's Letters, which were juſtly taken notice of by that *Mecænas* of the Age the Earl of *Cheſterfield*, then Lord Lieutenant; who made Mr. *Brooke* one of the Barrack-Maſters, an Employment worth two hundred Pounds a Year. This Author amuſed himſelf in his Retirement in the Country, with writing an allegorical Piece, called *Jack the Giant Queller*; and I am ſorry to add, that he brought it to the Stage; becauſe, in that Species of humorous Writing, he had certainly miſtook his Way. I was preſent with the Manager and Author at the firſt Reading; and as Mr. *Sheridan* ſeemed as much delighted with it as the Author, I could only remain in ſilent Amazement at the Error! and expreſſed my Sentiments

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ments to the Manager when alone. This ſtrange Piece was got up with no little Trouble, was well performed, and with great Applauſe; but as there were two or three ſatirical Songs, againſt bad Governors, Lord-Mayors, and Aldermen, ſome weak Perſon belonging to the Government, happening to be preſent the firſt Night, went off to the Lords Juſtices with his Complaints againſt it, and the next Morning the Maſter of the Revels ſent his Prohibition to the Manager; and ſo it ended, at one Performance. But the *intrinſic* Merit of this applauded Piece we ſhall arrive at hereafter, when the Spirit of Party was evaporated.

Among other Loſſes the Theatre ſuſtained this Seaſon, was the almoſt irreparable one of Miſs *Bellamy*. Mr. *Garrick*, who

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who had acted with her in 1746, knew her Merit, that she was an improving Actress; and as the Theatre-Royal in *Dublin* was only looked on in those Days as a Nursery for *London*, every Performer of any Consequence was only waiting for their Election to one of those Theatres.

In the Month of *February* of this Season, a young Lady was brought on the Stage, by the Advice and particular Encouragement of the Manager, in the Character of *Indiana*; which she performed to a crouded Audience, from whom she had the good Fortune to receive singular Marks of Indulgence and Approbation. In a few Days that Play was repeated with the same Success. Some Time after she appeared in the Character of *Monimia*, under the Name of

Miss

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Miſs DANVERS *; then followed *Athenais*, *Sigiſmunda*, &c. And though ſhe was under perſonal Diſadvantage for Characters of that amiable Caſt, yet, by an eaſy, graceful Conduct, and a ſpirited, natural Manner of Speaking, with ſome happy pathetic Tones in her Voice, adapted to Diſtreſs, ſhe never failed to meet with Applauſe from the judicious Part of the Audience.

The ſingular Caſe of this young Lady leads me to obſerve, how very fortunate a Circumſtance it is for an Actreſs to have *Beauty!* but though Beauty is a valuable Requiſite, there are many more material wanted to form a compleat Actreſs; and it is a very rare Inſtance to find all the Re-

* This young Lady's real Name was concealed, out of Reſpect to a Family of Diſtinction in *Dublin*.

quiſites

quiſites united in one Perſon. A Woman therefore but juſt agreeable, with Senſe and Spirit to execute what ſhe feels, will diſtance all the tame Beauties in the Univerſe; and I will venture to affirm, the Truth of this Obſervation would have been verified in Miſs *Danvers*, if ſhe had thought proper to continue on the Stage, and had been directed to Characters of a proper Caſt.

The Manager's Agreement with the muſical Tribe, I have already obſerved, was for two Years. At the End of the firſt Seaſon, ſeeing how much he was involved by theſe woeful Bargains; and as the perſonal Reſpect I had for him, compelled me to ſhare his Diſtreſſes, I had the Happineſs, one ruminating Morning, to ſtart an Expedient to ſerve him; which

was,

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was, to offer his Singers and Band of Muſick to the charitable Muſical Society, at the Muſick-Hall in *Fiſhamble-ſtreet*, as his Band and Singers were the beſt in the Kingdom. My Scheme was, that the Manager ſhould have all the Subſcriptions, (which were ſeldom leſs than three hundred Guineas) and that their annual Benefit (the *Meſſiah)* ſhould be performed, clear of all Expence, for the Uſe of the Charity, for the Enlargement of poor Priſoners for ſmall Debts, which was the utmoſt that uſeful Society ever aimed at. Another Advantage to the Manager (and indeed a material one) was, that their Night of Performance, if the Society thought fit to agree with him, muſt be changed from the *Friday* (one of the beſt Play Nights) to the *Tueſday*, which was a Caſtle Night, where

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where was a public Ball, and on that Account a vacant Night at the Theatre.

When I had ſufficiently digeſted my Scheme, I communicated it to my good Friend, Mr. *Neale* of the Muſic-Hall, who approved of it; and adviſed me to conſult Mr. *Hoffſhleager*, a Merchant of Worth and Honour, a Leader in that and every uſeful Charity, and a Friend to the Manager. I did ſo; and after I had obtained that Gentleman's Approbation, by his Advice I acquainted the Manager with what I had done, who ſoon deſired me to propoſe, and bring on a Meeting with a Committee of the Society, in order to ſettle the Agreement with them. This was done; and at that Meeting every advantageous Point before-mentioned, was carried for the Manager. The Concert Night

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was removed from the *Friday* to the *Tueſday*, and the Subſcriptions amounted to more than three hundred Guineas.

In the Month of *May*, in this Seaſon, the Tragedy of the *Earl of Eſſex*, new written by Mr. *Brooke*, was brought to the Stage, and performed with great Applauſe. The Plan of the firſt Author *(Banks)* being univerſally approved, was preſerved by Mr. *Brooke*, who made no Alteration but in the laſt Act, where *Eſſex* and *Southampton* are going to Execution, which proved an agreeable Incident.

At the Requeſt of the Author, I wrote the Epilogue to this Tragedy, which was ſpoke with great Applauſe. As I was deprived of the uſual ſprightly Aid of *Doubles entendres*, I found the Taſk ſomething difficult

difficult to avoid being dull. I ſhould have been tempted to give it a Place in this Work, if I was not fearful I may give too many Proofs of my Vanity without it.

The Seaſon 1749 brought a great Acquiſition to the Theatre. In *November*, Mr. THEOPHILUS CIBBER, Mr. DIGGES, and Mr. MOSSOP made their Appearance there. Mr. *Cibber* was a Veteran of well-known Merit; the two laſt Gentlemen were new to the Stage. In Mr. *Digges* almoſt all the Requiſites to form a great Actor ſeemed to unite; every Advantage of Art and Nature, except an harmonious Voice. His firſt Onſet, in the Character of *Jaffier*, was great and intrepid; as to his Figure, he gave us the Idea of a Man of Faſhion, in a fuller Degree than any one on that

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Stage: His Progreſs, in the Profeſſion of an Actor, is too well known to require any Remarks from me.

Mr. *Moſſop* appeared the Night following in the Character of *Zanga*. He had not the ſame Obligations to Nature; and ſet out with only one theatrical Requiſite, a ſtrong, full, harmonious Voice: but he was very young, and Accompliſhments were to be acquired; his own good Senſe led him to an early, diligent Application, and the Proofs are extant. He ſtands already in the Eſtimation of a firſt-rate Actor.

This was the moſt profitable Seaſon to the Manager; the Sum total was encreaſed two thouſand Pounds beyond any of the preceding Years.

For

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For the following Winter, Mr. *King*, a young Actor of ſome Promiſe, was brought from *Drury-lane* Theatre; and *Bellioni* and Madam *Pagot*, two *French* Dancers, of no great Merit, from the Opera-Houſe; but the Novelty of the two new Actors, *Digges* and *Moſſop*, was over; and Mrs. *Bland* (though greatly improved, and whoſe Diligence in her Buſineſs greatly enhanced her Merit) was unable to ſupport all the capital Characters, to which ſhe was now preferred. Mr. *Moſſop* went off for *London* before the Seaſon was cloſed, on ſome Diſpute with the Manager. This therefore may be ſuppoſed (if compared with the laſt) to be a loſing Winter.

In the enſuing Summer, Mrs. *Woffington* arrived from *England*, with the Hopes,

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no Doubt, of an early Application from the Manager, to engage a Perſon of her Merit for the following Seaſon.

My old Friend, the Laureat *Cibber*, with whom I preſerved the Pleaſure of a literary Correſpondence, did not fail to tranſmit me exact Accounts of the ſurprizing Improvements of *Woffington*; but as that very happy, ſingular old Gentleman retained the Air of the Lover long after the Age of Seventy, I attributed his Encomiums, on this Lady's Perfections in Tragedy, to the Exceſs of his Paſſion. And as Mr. *Sheridan* had not ſeen her on the Stage for ſome Years, he was not eaſily perſwaded into an Opinion of her ſuperior Abilities to Mrs. *Bland*, who was then in Articles with him. However, being preſſed into it by ſome of his leading Friends,

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Friends, he engaged *Woffington* for the enſuing Seaſon only, at four hundred Pounds, and the Happy Conſequences of that Engagement are recent in the Knowledge of every one who frequented the Theatre at that Time.

By four of her Characters performed ten Nights each that Seaſon, *viz.* Lady *Townly*, *Maria*, (in the *Nonjuror*) Sir *Harry Wildair*, and *Hermione*, there were taken above four thouſand Pounds; an Inſtance never known in any Theatre from four old ſtock Plays, and two of them in which the Manager acted no Part.

In this firſt Seaſon of *Woffington*, Mrs. *Green* was brought from the Theatre-Royal in *Covent-Garden:* And for the ſecond Winter

Mrs. *Ward* from *Drury-Lane* Theatre, both Actreſſes of Merit.

In Conſideration of the eminent Services of Mrs. *Woffington*, her Salary the ſecond Year was enlarged to eight hundred Pounds: And though it was to be imagined, that her Force to draw Audiences muſt be weakened, yet was it not ſo much as I expected; for if my Memory does not greatly fail me, the Profit at cloſing the Account did not fall more than three hundred Pounds, ſhort of the firſt Seaſon.

There were but two remarkable Events that happened this Year; which, though are not ſtrictly Theatrical, may yet, perhaps, not be thought below the Hiſtorian to relate: At leaſt, I dare ſay, my Readers

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ders will thank me for them, and they are the Perſons I am chiefly engaged to pleaſe.

The firſt was the famous *Beef-ſtake Club*; a Club of antient Inſtitution in every Theatre; when the principal Performers dined one Day in the Week together, (generally *Saturday*) and Authors and other Geniuſes were admitted Members.

But this Beef-ſtake Club was ſtrangely ſubverted. No Performers, ſave one Female, were admitted; and tho' called a *Club*, the Manager alone was at the Expence of it. This Year it was opened as follows. A Liſt of about fifty or ſixty Perſons, chiefly compoſed of Lords and Members of Parliament, were invited. About thirty attended the Summons in the great Room, in the Manager's Apartment at the Theatre. There was no Female admitted at

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this Dinner but Mrs. *Woffington*, who was placed in a great Chair, at the Head of the Table, and elected Preſident for the Seaſon.

The Reader will readily believe, that a Club, where there were good Accommodations, ſuch a lovely Preſident, full of Wit and Spirit, and *nothing to pay*, muſt ſoon grow remarkably faſhionable. It did ſo. And the fatal Conſequences we ſhall arrive at hereafter.

The other Anecdote is full of true farcical Pleaſantry, and was accordingly productive of a great deal of merry Scandal through the whole City.

When *Chriſtmas* approached, as there are no Plays in that Week, the *Manager* and Mrs. *Woffington* took a public Journey together,

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together, to his Seat at *Quilca*, in the County of *Cavan*, about fifty Miles from *Dublin*. This *tete a tete* Party (as the Manager left his Wife behind) muſt create Merriment in a Place where the Actions of remarkable Perſons are preſently known, eſpecially of Players who are not very notorious for their Chaſtity. As I was not in the Secret I wondered at this Tranſaction, and the more, as I knew the Manager's private Sentiments of that Lady, which tallied with my own, *viz.* that ſhe had captivating Charms, as a jovial, witty, Bottle-Companion, but very few remaining as a mere Female.

New Stories were propagated every Morning about this myſterious Couple, and whimſical Reports of Mrs. *Sheridan*'s raging Fits of Jealouſy. But Mrs. *Sheridan* was not only in the Secret, but, being a Lady

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Lady of diſtinguiſhed good Senſe, was, at all Times, fully ſatisfied with the Conduct of her Huſband.

And now for the Secret, which was very ſoon (as Scrub ſays) no Secret at all. The Manager, to ſhew his extraordinary Politeneſs to this Lady, carried her down to *Quilca*, to meet a worthy Clergyman in his Neighbourhood, who, from the Wildneſs of his Situation, is called the Primate of the Mountains. This reverend Gentleman was to receive the Recantation of this Lady from the *Romiſh* Religion to the Proteſtant: I ſay to *receive* it, and to perform the Ceremony; becauſe a Motive more powerful than any Arguments that could be uſed by the whole Body of the Clergy, had already perſuaded her

her to make that neceſſary Change. An Eſtate of two hundred Pounds a Year in *Ireland* had been lately left her, by her old Friend and Admirer the famous *Owen M'Swiney*, Eſq; which ſhe is now in the Poſſeſſion of, by Virtue of that Recantation.

I have already given my Reader an imperfect Deſcription of the celebrated BEEFSTAKE CLUB, which, I am fully convinced, was begun with no Party Intention on the Side of the Manager: On the contrary, he often conſulted me about the eſtabliſhing a real Theatrical Club, to be compoſed of ſuch Members as ſhould be qualified to preſide as Judges of every Thing proper to be exhibited to the Public; and able by their Influence to ſupport the Manager in every laudable Action againſt any Oppoſition whatever: Men, who had

Abilities

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Abilities to defend the Stage with their Pens againſt any rude, irrational Attack.

I have often thought that ſuch a Club might be eaſily eſtabliſhed in the Cities of *London* and *Dublin*, and prove of great Utility both to the Public and the Theatre.

But this famous Club in the remarkable Year 1753, was thus metamorphoſed by Mrs. *Woffington*; who was delighted with the Novelty of her Station, and who had Wit and Spirit to ſupport it. The Table (my Reader will ſuppoſe) was conſtantly filled with her Friends; who happened to be all Courtiers: and as not a Glaſs of Wine is drank in that Kingdom without firſt naming the Toaſt, it is eaſy to gueſs at the Strain of Toaſts that were conſtantly given in that Club: And as ſeveral Perſons from the

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the oppoſite Party were introduced by their Friends as occaſional Viſitors, the Converſation, and general Toaſts of this weekly Aſſembly ſoon became the common Talk of the Town: And the Manager of Courſe was ſeverely abuſed for being the Supporter of it, as he moſt certainly, and effectually was, when he was the Perſon who paid for all.

At this critical, dangerous Juncture, when the whole Kingdom was enflamed by a Set of able powerful Men, called PATRIOTS! This Aſſembly of Courtiers was publicly ſupported by the Manager of the Theatre, who was alſo the principal Actor. He was conſequently, at all Times, within the immediate Reſentment of the provoked Party; who were ſure to watch for the firſt

Op-

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Opportunity to deſtroy him, and an Occaſion ſoon offered.

The Tragedy of *Mahomet* had been* ſometime ſingled out by the Manager to be revived; the Parts were wrote out, and caſt, the Winter before this in the following Manner; *Palmira* Mrs. *Woffington*, *Zaphna* Mr. *Sheridan*, and *Alcanor* Mr. *Digges*.

During the Rehearſal of this Play, ſeveral Paſſages were talked of by the Anti-courtiers as pleaſing to them, and which they would not fail to diſtinguiſh.

* This was before the breaking out of the Party Rage, and the Beef-ſtake Club, as opened that Seaſon, was before the Appearance of Party Diſputes in Parliament; which fully confirms what I have juſt before aſſerted, that both were done by the Manager without any Party Intention on his Side.

At

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At this Juncture there was a Coldneſs between the Manager and me, which had been ſlowly approaching for ſome time, and was now encreaſed to ſuch a Degree, that we never met or ſpoke to each other, but upon unavoidable Buſineſs; I therefore made Enquiries after the Meaning of what I heard from all the Parties in the Play but him. However, as I converſed with few Anti-courtiers, I diſregarded the Rumours, and only imagined the Party would apply ſome of the uſual popular Speeches againſt wicked Miniſters of State, (which moſt of our Tragedies are filled with) by diſtinguiſhed Applauſe.

When the Night of Performance came on, the Pit was filled very ſoon with Leaders

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ders and Chiefs of the Country Party; and when *Digges* ſpoke the following Speech.

" If, ye Powers divine!
" Ye mark the Movements of this nether
" World,
" And bring them to Account! Cruſh,
" cruſh thoſe Vipers,
" Who ſingled out by the Community
" To guard their Rights, ſhall for a Graſp
" of Ore,
" Or *paltry Office*—ſell them to the Foe."

The Moment he had finiſhed it, all the Party in the Pit roared out *encore*, which was continued with ſuch Violence, that the Actor, after diſcovering due Aſtoniſhment in his Countenance, very readily ſpoke the whole Speech over again, which was moſt remarkably applauded by the Audience.

The

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The fine Scenes of *Zaphna* and *Palmira*, which are the moſt remarkable in the Play, and performed by their Principal, and uſually applauded Actors, this Night paſſed unnoticed, and all the Applauſe fell on the Character of *Alcanor*. The partial Conduct of this Audience plainly diſcovered that they were only influenced by the Spirit of Party.

As the Manager had ſo much Reaſon to be diſguſted with the Behaviour of this Audience, it was ſomething myſterious, and what I could never account for, why he permitted that Play to be acted a ſecond Time; even though it was beſpoke by ſome Ladies who applied to the Box-keeper. Surely, as the firſt Audience had ſo obviouſly ſet the Mark of Party upon it, and had been guilty of a violent Breach of Decorum,

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corum, by forcing an Actor out of his Character, and insisting on his *repeating a* Speech, a *Party Speech!* it was the Duty of the Manager to do all in his Power, nay, to use every Art, to divert the Measures made use of by the Party again, for a Repetition of that Irregularity.

On the contrary, he complied with the Request to perform *Mahomet* a second Time; and contented himself with ordering a general Summons to all the Company, to meet him in the Green Room on the *Friday* Morning, the Day before the Play was to be acted.

When the Company were all assembled, he entered the Room with a Paper in his Hand, and read them a Lecture on the Duties of an Actor, particularly, respecting

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reſpecting to his Conduct to the Public; and to ſhew, in the moſt glaring Colours, that the Actor, who proſtituted himſelf to the wanton Humour of an Audience, brought inevitable Diſgrace, not only on himſelf, but on all his Brethren.

Mr. *Digges* roſe up, and ſaid, it was very obvious, that this Lecture on the Duties of an Actor was levelled at him; that he was the Perſon who had brought that Diſgrace upon himſelf and his Brethren; but as the ſame Play was to be performed the following Night, and the ſame Demand from the Audience was likely to fall on him; he deſired to know what were the Manager's Commands in Regard to his Conduct. Mr. *Sheridan*'s Reply was, that he ſhould give him no Directions, but leave him to do as he thought

thought proper. *Digges* then ſaid, " Sir, " If I ſhould comply with the Demand of " the Audience, and repeat the Speech, " as I did before, am I to incur your " Cenſure for doing it?" The Manager replied, " *Not at all*; *I leave you to act in* " *that Matter as you think proper.*"

The Night following was the Performance. The Pit was full as ſoon as the Doors were open, the Houſe crouded; and this remarkable Speech in the firſt Scene. As ſoon as ever it was out of the Mouth of the Actor, he was called upon *to repeat it*, with the ſame Vehemence as on the firſt Night. The Actor ſeemed ſtartled, and ſtood ſome Time motionleſs; at laſt, at the continued Fierceneſs of the *Encores*, he made a Motion to be heard; and when Silence was obtained, he ſaid,

" It

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" It would give him the higheſt Pleaſure
" imaginable to comply with the Requeſt
" of the Audience; but he had his *private*
" *Reaſons* for begging they would be ſo
" good to excuſe him, as his *Compliance*
" *would be greatly injurious to him.*"

On his ſaying that, they immediately called out *Sheridan! Sheridan!* the *Manager!* the *Manager!* and this Cry ſoon became univerſal throughout all Parts of the Houſe. After ſome ſhort Time Mr. *Digges* left the Stage; and the Uproar continuing, the Manager (who ſtood by me behind the Scenes) ordered the Curtain down, and ſent on the Prompter to acquaint the Audience, that they were ready to perform the Play, if they were ſuffered to go on in Quiet; if not, that they

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they were at Liberty to take their Money again, The Prompter was not heard, and obliged to withdraw.

Mr. *Sheridan* then ſaid with ſome Agitation, "*They have no Right to call upon me,* "*I'll not obey their Call*; I'll go up to my "Room and undreſs myſelf;" and up he went. Some of his beſt Friends left the Pit and Boxes, and went to his Dreſſing-Room after him; and, as I was told by them, entreated him not to undreſs, but to go down and endeavour to pacify an Audience, that knew he was there, and muſt be enraged at his Refuſal to appear before them. But, at theſe Reaſons and theſe Entreaties of his Friends, he remained unmoved; and being ſtrongly poſſeſſed, with the Notion that perſonal Miſchief was intended him, he got into a Chair, went home,

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home, and left the Houſe in that Uproar and Confuſion.

Mrs. *Woffington* was perſwaded to appear before them, to ſee if a fine Woman could aſſwage the Fury of the many-headed Monſter; but alas! her ſuppoſed Influence there was adding Fuel to the Flame; ſhe was offenſive (by her known Connections) to the whole Party, and therefore ſtood no Chance to be heard. *Digges* was the ſeeming Favourite, and reigning Orator. He was deſired to go on, and to aſſure the Audience, Mr. *Sheridan* had laid him under no Injunction not to repeat the Speech, and therefore could not, on that Account, have incurred their Diſpleaſure. *Digges* went on, moved to be heard, and a profound Silence enſued; he repeated what he had been deſired, but in

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vain; as they had called ſo long for *Sheridan*, they would inſiſt on having him before them, and his anſwering for himſelf. At laſt, when they were told he was poſitively gone home, they inſiſted on his being ſent for, and added, they would wait patiently an Hour, as he was known to live at ſome Diſtance; and accordingly they ſat down quietly to amuſe themſelves.

Meſſengers were diſpatched to the Manager, to acquaint him with the Reſolution of the Houſe; but no Arguments could prevail on him to return back; and when the Hour was expired, they renewed their Call; and after continuing it ſome Time, two of their Leaders (Perſons of Gravity and Condition) roſe up from the Middle of the Pit, and went off over the Boxes. *That was the agreed Signal*; and the

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the Grace for falling to was as follows: A Youth in the Pit ſtood up, and cried out, *God bleſs his Majeſty King* George, with three Huzzas! and at the End of the laſt Huzza, they all fell to demoliſhing the Houſe, like Lions devouring their Prey; and the Audience Part was all in Pieces in five Minutes. Had they ended there, with demoliſhing the Audience Part, and exerciſed their Fury within their own Department, that Puniſhment to offending Managers would have appeared ſomething methodical and rational; but, to prove that Fury muſt be devoid of all Rationality, ſome moved to fire the Houſe, others to attack the Wardrobe. Accordingly, a Party leaped upon the Stage, and with their Swords, and other Inſtruments, cut and ſlaſh'd the Curtain, which was finely painted, and coſt a great Sum

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of Money; broke and cut to Pieces all the Scenes within their Reach, and ſome Attempts were made towards the Wardrobe; but finding that Place well defended, they retired; and ſome who went off through the Box-room, dragged the Grate full of burning Coals into the Middle of the Room, and there laid ſome of the broken Doors of the Boxes upon it, and left them there. In that Condition they were found, and Time enough to prevent the intended Miſchief.

As ſoon as I ſaw them attack the Stage, there was no knowing where their Fury would end. I then haſtened directly to the Caſtle, to inform my LORD LIEUTENANT of the Danger we were in; his GRACE ſent away for the LORD MAYOR, who excuſed himſelf, as being ill of the Gout;

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Gout; then the *Town-Major* and I went in Purſuit of both the *High-ſheriffs* to their Houſes, and from thence to the Taverns, where we heard they were; but we could find no Magiſtrate, till One o'Clock in the Morning, above a Deputy Conſtable. A deplorable Cuſtom! which, I hope, will be ſoon aboliſhed in that great City, where that uſeful Officer, the *Conſtable*, is by Deputation, put into the Hands of a low, mean, ſorry Scoundrel, who officiates for the Houſekeeper for two Guineas; and thus a thouſand Enormities and Rogueries are committed by the very Officer who ſhould defend the Public from them. Theſe were the only civil Officers the *Town-Major* and I could find; and the Captain of the Guard very juſtly refuſed to march under the Direction of ſuch a Man, and without a Magiſtrate or Con-

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ſtable the Guard could be of no Manner of Uſe. But I muſt obſerve, that on the Report of the intended Riot at the Theatre that Night, and knowing alſo that it was to be on a Party-occaſion, the Magiſtrates were ſuppoſed to conceal themſelves deſignedly.

From this Account of the Behaviour of the Magiſtrates, my Reader will conclude, that the Manager had, in this Diſpute, quite loſt the Favour and Protection of the Public; his Situation of Affairs, in this Diſpute, was vaſtly altered from the firſt Riot, where all the Advantages were on his Side. Here he was given up by the Grave and Judicious, nay even by the *Courtiers*, who all agreed he ſhould have ſtroaked the growling Lion, and not have gored him.

This

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This univerſal Opinion in his Diſfavour ſoon inclined him to give up the Management of the Theatre, and to determine to ſet his Foot there no more; and accordingly he took his Leave in a very pathetic, affecting Addreſs to the Public, which was publiſhed about a Month after. And now, with my Reader's Leave, we will look back to the Cauſe of all this Miſchief.

Mr. *Digges* was called upon, by a determined Set of Men in the Pit, to repeat a favourite Speech that pleaſed them, and ſuited their Purpoſe; and he indulged them by repeating that Speech; and then the Play ended quietly. Very well. Juſt before the ſecond Night of Performance, the Manager thought it his Duty to give

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the Company in general his Thoughts * upon that notorious Abuſe of the Profeſſion of an Actor. And when *Digges*

* This Speech was printed ſome Time after, in a ſhort Vindication of the Conduct of the Manager; in which, amongſt many juſt Obſervations, was the following:

" I do not pretend to dictate to you in your private Capacities; every Man born under our happy " Conſtitution has a Right to think as he pleaſes, and " ſpeak his Sentiments, provided they are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land, and the Rules of " civil Society; but in your theatrical Character, I have " an undoubted Right at leaſt to adviſe you. I lay it " down then as a Maxim, that the Buſineſs of an " Actor is to diveſt himſelf as much as poſſible of his " private Sentiments, and to enter, with all the " Spirit he is Maſter of, into the Character he repre- " ſents; and this is an indiſputable Claim, which the " Public in general have upon him. But if an Actor, " in order to pleaſe Part of that Public, ſhould, by " any *unuſual Emphaſis*, *Geſture*, or *ſignificant Look*, " mark out a Paſſage in his Part (which at another " Juncture he would paſs by lightly) as a *Party-ſtroke!* " he, in that Inſtance, ſteps out of his feigned Cha- " racter into his natural one, than which nothing can " be more diſguſting or inſolent to any Auditor, who " came with no other Intent but that of ſeeing the " Play, *&c. &c.*"

(who

(who plainly found the Severity of the Diſcourſe was levelled at him) aſked if he ſhould To-morrow Night be reduced to the ſame Situation, and ſhould oblige the Audience with repeating the Speech, what was to be the Conſequence? if his complying was to incur his Diſpleaſure? When he was anſwered, *No*; he might do as he pleaſed. Surely, when the Audience called on him to repeat it, and with the ſame, or greater Violence than before, he ſhould not have thrown out that Inſinuation, as if the Manager had enjoined him not to comply with their Requeſt; and his ſaying he had *private* Reaſons, and that his Compliance would be greatly *injurious to him*, was pointing their Reſentment fully at the Head of the Manager; and though (as I have obſerved) *Digges* did go on, and acquit Mr. *Sheridan* from lay-

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ing him under any Injunction, yet it was then too late to extinguiſh the Flame.

And now, let me ſuppoſe the Manager had been ſo very fortunate as to have gone upon the Stage, when called for, to know their Commands. Some one of their Body muſt have been appointed to aſk him, if he had forbid the Actor to comply with their Requeſt; his Anſwer would have been, "*No*; *on the contrary*, *Mr.* "Digges *knows I left him to his Pleaſure.*" What then could the Audience have ſaid to the Manager? Muſt not their Reſentment have fallen on the Actor for his Refuſal of what he had before complied with? Surely it muſt; becauſe no Alteration of his Opinion of that Tranſaction, from the Lecture given by Mr. *Sheridan*, would have

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have been admitted, or taken into the leaſt Conſideration by the Audience.

But however, I am clearly of Opinion, as the celebrated *Beef-ſteak Club* had ſo much diſguſted the *Anti-Courtiers*; and as the Manager was ſo univerſally condemned by the Town for being the ſole Supporter of it, if that Night had not determined his Fate, it would not have been poſtponed much longer; for they intended to *Encore* him the firſt Opportunity, and his Refuſal would have produced the very ſame Conſequence; and therefore, this Misfortune muſt be attributed to the Unhappineſs of being unwarily drawn into that Snare by *Wit* and good *Company*, which have deſtroyed the ableſt and wiſeſt Men from the Beginning of the World.

My

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My old, deceaſed Friend, *Cibber*, in the Contents of his ſecond Chapter, ſays, " *He that writes of himſelf is not eaſily tired,* " *which ſweet Liberty* (ſays he) *I enjoy for* " *a whole Volume together.*" In the Part of the Hiſtory I am now arrived at, I muſt write of myſelf; but though I have the ſame Privilege he enjoy'd, yet, as I want his Abilities and happy Diſpoſition, my Fears will make me brief.

When Mr. *Sheridan* had publiſhed his Caſe, and ſettled his Plan of Operation, he began to put it in Execution; which was, to let the Theatres and Wardrobe for two Years, at an agreed Sum for every acting Night; but the Tenant was to lend him two thouſand Pounds upon a Mort-

gage

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gage of the Wardrobe, *&c.* then valued at four thouſand Pounds.

All Eyes were turned on me as the likely Perſon to embrace that offer. I directly conſulted Mr. *Sowdon*, (then a principal Actor in the Company) who I knew had Money; and we ſoon agreed to unite in Partnerſhip. Accordingly, I entered into an Article with Mr. *Sheridan*, to take the Theatres of him for two Years certain, on the Payment of Five Pounds for every acting Night, to lend him two thouſand Pounds on the Mortgage, and to execute Deeds, to be prepared by Mr. *Howard* within one Month, agreeable to the above Conditions, on the Penalty of five hundred Pounds.

At

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At the appointed Time the Deeds were executed between all the Parties; one thouſand Pounds were paid by Mr. *Sowdon*, of the other thouſand only three hundred Pounds were advanced by me; but I was made Truſtee for the whole two thouſand.

When the Summer approached, Mr. *Sowdon* went off for *London*, to endeavour to engage Mr. *Barry* for the following Seaſon; and left me to repair the Theatre from the Injuries it had lately received, and to add what Improvements and Decorations I ſhould think neceſſary.

Mr. *Sowdon* offered Mr. *Barry* eight hundred Pounds Salary, and three hundred for Miſs *Noſſiter*. He was contented with his own Sum, but inſiſted on five hundred

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hundred for the young Lady, who was then under his Care and Protection; and before my Partner left *London*, I prevailed with him to conſent to give the demanded Terms, being fully convinced we could ſtand no Chance for Succeſs, without a capital Actor to ſucceed Mr. *Sheridan*.

I had alſo agreed with Mr. *Sowdon* before we parted, that he ſhould endeavour to engage Mrs. *Gregory* (now *Fitzhenry*) for that Seaſon, as a capital Actreſs to perform with Mr. *Barry*. He did ſo; and as ſhe had appeared but the Winter before at *Covent-Garden* Theatre, and but in few Characters, ſhe was engaged at the moderate Sum of three hundred Pounds; but I knew her Merit before it was crowned with public Succeſs.

Mrs.

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Mrs. *Gregory* and her Friends were known to Mr. *Luke Sparks* in *London*, and ſhe wrote to acquaint him with her determined Reſolution to try her Fate on the Stage, and deſired he would prepare the Way for her Appearance, with the Manager of the Theatre he was engaged in. But ſo many unſucceſsful Attempts having been made within theſe few Years paſt, it ſeemed irrational to encourage a Woman to undertake ſo long and expenſive a Voyage and Journey, without any other Hope of Succeſs than her own *Inclination*, which is too often miſtaken for *Genius*. Her Friend in *London* therefore adviſed her to procure the Opinion of ſome Perſon in *Dublin*, whoſe Judgment could be depended on; and unfortunately (as I then thought it) that Choice fell upon me; becauſe,

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becauſe, no Taſk can be more diſagreeable than that of being obliged to tell People unwelcome Truths; and the Odds were greatly on that Side of the Queſtion. This Office was preſſed upon me by a Perſon I could not refuſe, who carried me one Morning to the Muſick-Hall, where the Lady and her Friends were waiting, with Mr. *Bardin*, lately an Actor, who was provided to rehearſe the Scenes of *Haſtings* and *Alicia*. At the Introduction, I remember, I too honeſtly confeſſed my diſagreeable Diſpoſition of Mind, almoſt to a Breach of good Manners. When the Rehearſal began, Mrs. *Gregory* had not ſpoke above three or four Speeches, before I left my Seat, and ſtopt them, by ſaying, " Madam, the beſt Apology I can " make you for what I have already ſaid, " is, by this early Declaration of my Opi-

" nion,

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" nion, *that you have it in your Power to*
" *be an Actreſs of Conſequence*; now, Ma-
" dam, proceed as long as you pleaſe, I
" ſhall attend with Pleaſure." When the Rehearſal was over, I confirm'd my Opinion in the ſtrongeſt Terms; but that was not ſufficient. I was requeſted to give it in a Letter to Mr. *Sparks* in *London*, which I wrote as ſoon as I returned home; on which ſhe was ſent for to *Covent-Garden* Theatre. The Conſequences are well known to the Public.

After indulging my Vanity with this ſhort Anecdote, I return to our ſetting out the firſt Seaſon of our Management, with giving the following bold Salaries to three new Performers from *London*; eight hundred Pounds to Mr. *Barry*, five hundred to Miſs *Noſſiter*, and three hundred to

Mrs.

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Mrs. *Gregory*. Mr. *Barry* was well worth that Price; and as a Proof that the laſt mentioned Lady was not too dear, her Salary encreaſed the next Year to four hundred, and the Year after to five.

And from all this, I ſtand convinced of this *Truth*, (and from the beſt Proof that can be obtained, EXPERIENCE) *that no Man, let his theatrical Knowledge be ever ſo great, can be a Gainer by being the Manager of a Theatre, unleſs he is, at the ſame Time, the* FIRST IN THE PROFESSION OF AN ACTOR; *or* CONNECTED WITH ONE WHO IS. The Reaſons are obvious; thoſe Performers to be employed, that have the Power, from their Reputation in the World, to draw Audiencies, know that Power, and how to ſet a due Value on it; and after their Worth is properly rated, the

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the Accidents that follow, ſuch as ill Health, and the like, are to be Draw-backs from the expected Profits of the Manager.

I was ſo ſenſible of this Danger in our firſt Engagement with Mr. *Barry*, that I thought of a ſaving Expedient, which a very worthy Gentleman, his Friend, before whom this Affair was debated, was pleaſed to approve of as reaſonable; which was, *that Mr.* Barry *ſhould be obliged to perform ſixty Nights that Seaſon*; that the eight hundred Pounds ſhould be divided into Parts, (which, I think, is about fourteen Pounds a Night) and that as many Nights as ſhould be wanting out of the ſixty, ſo many fourteen Pounds ſhould be deducted out of the eight hundred; and though he was particularly aſſiduous, and conſtantly performed

performed three Nights a Week, nine of the ſixty were wanting.

In my humble Opinion, nothing appears more reaſonable, than this reſerving Clauſe in theſe great Engagements. When an Article is ſigned for the Payment of a great Salary, if Sickneſs, or any other Accident, prevents the Actor from doing his Buſineſs, why ſhould that Misfortune fall only on the Manager? beſides, it is the only Safeguard againſt bad Practices. We have heard of AFFECTED *Illneſs* at certain Times, to preſerve that Conſequence which ſupports their Price; but of this I know no Proof. On the contrary, I muſt declare this Truth to the Credit of Mrs. *Woffington*, who had eight hundred Pounds Salary in *Dublin*, and deſerved it there by the Audiences ſhe brought, that ſo generous

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rous was her Conduct, though ſhe ſeldom performed leſs than four Nights a Week, that ſhe never diſappointed one Audience in the three Winters, either by real or affected Illneſs; and yet I have often ſeen her on the Stage, when ſhe ought to have been in her Bed.

But thus, by the Help of the beforementioned happy Clauſe in our Article with Mr. *Barry*, at the Cloſe of the Seaſon, and the ballancing our Accounts, we found ourſelves a very Trifle more than ſaved from Miſchief.

For our ſecond Seaſon, we declared againſt giving ſuch great Salaries; and therefore, to avoid that Error, we run into a greater, by engaging with Mr. *Moſſop* to perform with us on Shares.

The

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The Article between us ran thus: The nightly Expence to be ſettled at forty Pounds; and the Surplus of every Night that he performed was to be divided into three Parts, for my Partner, myſelf, and Mr. *Moſſop*; and if, in that Article, we had compelled him to perform a certain Number of Nights for the Partnerſhip, we had been ſafe. For, notwithſtanding his good Intention, when it came to the Proof, finding it the ſame as to his Profit, and more to his Reputation, being more ſure of full Houſes, by playing a ſmall Number of Nights, his Performances that Seaſon for the Partnerſhip ended in TWENTY-FOUR; and as Mrs. *Gregory* was engaged (I may ſay almoſt to act only with him, as ſhe was then ſtudied in few Parts of Comedy) at the advanced Salary of four hundred Pounds; and as we were obliged

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obliged to perform one hundred and ten Nights that Seaſon, it will not be wondered at, if none but thoſe few Nights of that Number, when the two Capitals performed together, the Houſes ſhould be crouded; and accordingly, the moſt Part of the reſt were loſing Nights to Mr. *Sowdon* and me, in which Mr. *Moſſop* bore no Share. And thus the Money brought into our Purſes by his few gaining Nights, was drawn out to defray the Loſſes of the failing Audiences; and his Gains, which were large, (near nine hundred Pounds, his Benefits included) happily remained with him.

Theſe Facts muſt ſufficiently illuſtrate the Aſſertion I lately made, *viz.* That no Man that is not a CAPITAL ACTOR, or *in Partnerſhip with one*, can be a ſucceſsful

Manager

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Manager of a *Theatre-Royal*, where great Entertainments muſt be exhibited, and conſequently, great Engagements muſt be entered into, and Dangers encountered.

The Manager of *Covent-Garden* Theatre (though no Actor) confirms the Truth of my Obſervation. He has had the happy Power within himſelf, by his *pantomimic Art*, to draw Audiencies; and that to a greater Degree than was ever done by any Actor, or by capital Actors, united in his Theatre; and thus, when their Demands on him were exorbitant, or their Behaviour improper, he could ſet them at Defiance, and ſmile in his own Security.

I remember but three remarkable Anecdotes during our Management. The firſt was at the Enterance of the firſt Year,

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when that ugly Monſter, Party, was not quite baniſhed the Theatre. We were told by all our Friends, that the famous Tragedy of *Mahomet* would be called for at the Opening of the Seaſon, and the Demand ſo univerſal, that we ſhould find ourſelves obliged to comply with it. For my own Part, I ſhould have exerted the Privileges of a Manager, whoſe poſitive Duty it is, to oppoſe all Meaſures that may cauſe Diſſentions in the Theatre, and have been deaf to the Voice of Faction, if my Partner (who, as an Actor, was undoubtedly more expoſed to Malice and Reſentment) had not offered good Reaſons for a contrary Behaviour. However, we conſulted together, and ſettled our Conduct if that Misfortune ſhould happen.

We

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We went on quietly for ſix Weeks; but one Night, when Mr. *Sowdon* advanced to give out the Play, about twenty Voices in the Pit called for *Mahomet*. Upon the Demand being many Times repeated, he begg'd the Gentlemen would give him Leave to retire for a few Minutes, to which they conſented: (this his retiring was ſuppoſed to be with a Deſign to conſult with me) he went on again, and ſaid; "*Gentlemen, I am to aſk if it is the unani-* "*mous Requeſt of this Audience, that the* "*Tragedy of* Mahomet *be performed?*" To which the ſame twenty Voices cried, *Ay, ay*; and as there was not a Negative, the *Ayes* had it. He then told them, that, as by the Abſence of Mrs. *Woffington*, Mr. *Sheridan*, and Mr. *Digges*, the three capital Characters in the Play were to be ſtudied,

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we muſt beg their Patience for fourteen Days; about which Time that Tragedy ſhould be performed.

When this began to be the Subject of Converſation, it was the univerſal Opinion that we ſhould have a crouded Houſe; and that *the Actor who performed the Character of* Alcanor *muſt certainly repeat their favorite Speech*; but as the Compliance with that Act of Proſtitution has been ſaid to bring Diſgrace on the Profeſſion, one would have thought it difficult to find an Actor who would accept the Part. On the contrary, as the Compliance carried with it the ſweet Promiſe of being popular, and the Favorite of a Party, THIS PROSTITUTION WAS SOLICITED FOR.

When

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When the Evening approached, the firſt Diſappointment we met with was from the Public. Inſtead of the crouded Audience ſo much talk'd of, the Houſe was not half full, (ſixty Pounds) and the Pit, chiefly compoſed of very young Men, (the *Spawn of Patriotiſm)* were ſufficiently gratified in the Repetition of their darling Speech,

——— " Cruſh, cruſh thoſe Vipers!
" Who, ſingled out by the Community,
" To guard their Rights, ſhall, for a
" Graſp of Ore,
" Or PALTRY OFFICE, ſell them to the
" Foe!"

After that Triumph was over, which happens in the firſt Scene, I never ſaw a duller Audience.

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Well; my Reader, I doubt not, will conclude this Party-Play, of courſe, ended here. Not ſo; moſt People, when ſhamefully expoſed, are for aſſigning any Cauſe but the right; this, they ſaid, was owing to the Play not being acted in the Strength of the Company; and accordingly, theſe young Patriots ſent Deputies to us, to deſire Mr. *Barry* might perform *Zaphna*, and Mrs. *Gregory Palmira*; but I had my Negative ready here. To have the Studies of two ſuch Performers employed a Month about two Parts, that could be of no Worth to us or them on any other Occaſion, (as the Play has little Merit, and I believe, is out of the Stock in both Theatres in *London*) could not be complied with. Mr. *Barry* was at that Time, engaged in the Study of the Parts of *Alexander* and *Lear*,

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Lear, which were ſure to turn out to the Advantage of his Employers. This appeared ſo very reaſonable to thoſe who conſidered the great Salaries we were bound to pay thoſe Performers, that after many Debates, it ended in deſiring *Mahomet* might be given out once more; which we complied with; and, as was expected, there came, juſt before ſix o' Clock, about eight or ten of thoſe young Gentlemen to the Pit, and finding no other Company, they ſoon conſented to be diſmiſſed.

And ſo this famous Affair quietly ended. After which, the true Cauſe of this Diſappointment obviouſly appeared; the Ladies kept away, fearing Riot and Diſorder; and the Leaders of the Party were, by the powerful Addreſs of an able Lord Lieu-

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tenant *, in (or in Treaty to be in) PALTRY OFFICE; and by that Means they ſhewed the World the true Intent of modern Patriotiſm.

The ſecond remarkable Circumſtance, was an Application from the Author of *Jack the Giant Queller*, and his Friends, to revive that applauded Piece, as the only Performance that would certainly fill the Purſes of Managers and Author; as Multitudes would come to the Theatre to ſee honeſt, little *Jack*, that could not be brought to any other Play. My Anſwer to my Friend, Mr. *Brooke*, was very ſhort and clear; "That *a Performance ſuppreſſed* "*by Order of Government, could not poſſibly* "*be revived, but by Permiſſion of Govern-*

* Marquis of *Hartington*, ſoon after Duke of *Devonſhire*.

ment;"

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ment;" and at the ſame Time obſerved, that we had a Lord Lieutenant at the Caſtle, (his Grace of *Devonſhire)* who had Judgment to diſtinguiſh univerſal from perſonal Satire, and was above mean Suſpicions; and adviſed him, as he had the Honour of being acquainted with Secretary *Conway*, by his Means to lay *Jack the Giant Queller*, with the Story of his Misfortunes, before his Grace. This was done; and the Copy was ſoon returned, with this Anſwer; "*That my Lord Lieu-*
"*tenant had no Manner of Objection to its*
"*being performed.*"

At this Alteration of the Opinion of Government, the happy Author thought his Fortune now effectually made; and accordingly, we ſet about the Revival of this celebrated, long wiſh'd for Piece:

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But alas! what is more capricious than theatrical Fate? So far from many crouded Audiencies, we had not the Happineſs of one; and nothing was heavier than the Performance, nor duller than the Audience. The warm Friends of little *Jack* began to think they were miſtaken; and ſo they were: It was performed the ſecond Night to leſs than half a Houſe; and the third, for the Benefit of the Author, not above three Parts full. And ſo died this once applauded *Jack* of a natural Death, unlamented; and I will venture to affirm, that an Allegory, wrote by the Pen of an Angel, and performed on the Stage for the Entertainment of the Night, would meet the ſame inevitable Fate.

The third Anecdote relates wholly to myſelf; the Profits and the Honour. In the

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the Month of *February*, in our firſt Seaſon, 1754, I had the Happineſs of receiving a Letter from his Grace of *Dorſet*'s Secretary in *London*, to give me Notice that the Duke, who never forgot his Promiſe to his Friends, had, at his reſigning the Government of *Ireland*, obtained his Majeſty's Permiſſion to fix me on the Eſtabliſhment of that Kingdom.

During the two laſt Years of the Duke of *Dorſet*'s Reſidence in *Dublin* as Lord Lieutenant, I had the Honour, on Account of my Office in the Theatre (to which the Duke was pleaſed to be a noble Patron) of waiting every *Friday* Morning on his Grace, to receive his Commands for the following Week; at thoſe Times, the Duke has often kept me half an Hour with him in his dreſſing Room, and ſeem-

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ed pleaſed with the Theatrical Accounts I gave him. This, in time, encouraged me to deliver in a Memorial relative to myſelf, ſetting forth my Expectations and Diſappointments of a Proviſion in the late Prince of *Wales*'s Family, in the Year 1729; that from the Year 1746, I had conſtantly wrote the Birth-Day Odes for the Court of *Dublin* to that Time; and as every Attendant on Royalty belongs to the Viceroy, it was ſurprizing, that in a Palace, where the Solemn Obſervance of his Majeſty's Birth-day was ſo neceſſary, the Office of *Poet Laureat*, who certainly does ſomething, ſhould be unprovided for, in a Court where ſo many uſeleſs Officers of State were paid for doing nothing. His Grace was pleaſed to admit the Truth of this Obſervation, and promiſed me his Aſſiſtance; but, on hearing the afflicting News of the Duke's

Reſigning

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Reſigning the Government of *Ireland*, I gave up all Hopes of ſucceeding, and therefore, the Honour of being remembered by his Grace, in Abſence, and at that Juncture, was an Obligation that will live for ever in my grateful Heart. But to recover my Way.

We had a new Tragedy, called *Injured Honour*, brought to us this Seaſon by Mrs. *Brooke*, which made us ample Amends for the trouble *little Jack* had given. This Tragedy was founded on an old *Engliſh* Story, the firſt Invaſion of the *Danes*. Mr. *Moſſop* acted the Part of *Weſtmoreland*, and Mrs. *Gregory* his *Wife*. This Play was well received, and juſtly admired by the beſt judges. There were ſome maſterly Scenes, and delicate Sentiments interſperſed, by which that Author has happily diſtinguiſhed himſelf.

At

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At the latter End of *April*, we received Letters from Mr. *Woodward* in *London*, to inform us of his having obtained Leave from the Managers of *Drury-Lane* Theatre for his ſetting off for *Dublin* to perform in nine Comedies with us, on Shares; which began about the fifteenth of *May*, and were all attended with the expected Succeſs. *Woodward* had, by Agreement, one of the Nights for himſelf, paying the Charges: ſo that, added to his Third of the Profits of the other Eight, he cleared ſomething more than two hundred Pounds by the Expedition.

And thus cloſed our two Years in the envied Office of MANAGERS of a THEATRE ROYAL: though ſhort the Period, yet full of Cares, Anxieties, and Dangers: An honeſt

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honeſt Man ſo circumſtanced, can ſtand no other Chance than that of loſing his good Name. The many bad, envious, diſcontented Spirits that infeſt a Theatre, vent all their Malice againſt the Manager they cannot impoſe on, and muſt hate the Man who only treats them as they deſerve.

When the Rage of Party was abated, and the Inhabitants of that populous City began to recover their Reaſon; among other leſs Conſiderations, they expreſſed themſelves with ſofter Sentiments of Mr. *Sheridan*, and ſeemed to admit, that the Treatment he had met with was too ſevere; and though he had committed a very great Error, the Puniſhment inflicted was more than adequate to the Crime.

When

When theſe Sentiments began to be general, they were ſoon conveyed to *England*, and came like the Balm of Gilead to the unhappy Exile; for though he left the Kingdom with due Reſentment on his Part, yet, as all our Paſſions ſubſide by Time, he began to feel the Influence of filial Love for his Parent Country.

During his Abſence of two Years, I conſtantly correſponded with him; and as my Partner expreſſed his Deſire to part with his Share of the Mortgage in a public Advertiſement, Mr. *Sheridan* had Time to prepare to pay him off, which he did on the appointed Day, by the Help of a Gentleman in *London*, who lent him a thouſand Pounds for that Purpoſe: Accordingly, the Lawyers were called in to transfer

Mr.

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Mr. *Sowdon*'s Moiety of the Mortgage to that Gentleman; who, I was told by *Sheridan*, was alſo to be concerned with him in the Profits.

As for myſelf, I was well contented to return to my former Station of *Treaſurer*, and *Aſſiſtant Manager*; and, by that Means, to a *Certainty*. Accordingly, an Article was drawn up between us by Mr. *Howard*, of which the following is a Copy, which I have a Reaſon for inſerting, that will appear hereafter.

ARTICLES of agreement, indented, made, concluded, and agreed upon, this fifteenth Day of *July*, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five, by and between —— and ſo forth.

Firſt.

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Firſt. That the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* ſhall act as Manager and Conductor of ſuch Part or Parts, of the two Theatres in *Aungier*'s Street and *Smock Alley*, for the next Winter Seaſon, to commence from the firſt Day of *September* next, and to the End of the acting Seaſon for that Year. If ſo the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan* ſhall direct, allot, and appoint; and ſhall alſo act as Treaſurer of the ſaid Theatres, to be preſent at the taking the Receipts and Profits of the ſaid Theatres, and to be Keeper of the Caſh.

2*dly.* Or that the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* ſhall act in the Capacity and Buſineſs of ſole Manager, if ſo called upon and required to do by the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan.* Or that the ſaid *Victor* ſhall act as Treaſurer only

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only at the Election of the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan*, and as he ſhall allot and appoint. And that the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* ſhall act in either of theſe laſt mentioned Capacities, as the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan* ſhall ſo elect and appoint as aforeſaid, for the Remainder of the Term which the ſaid *Sheridan* hath to come, and is unexpired in the Leaſe he now hath of the ſaid two Theatres.

3dly. That in whichſoever of the ſaid three Capacities the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* ſhall ſo act, according as the ſame ſhall be allotted or appointed by the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan*; the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan* ſhall pay, or cauſe to be paid unto the ſaid *Benjamin Victor*, the yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, by equal weekly Payments during the acting Seaſon.

4thly.

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4thly. And further, in caſe the ſaid *Benjamin Victor*, as Aſſiſtant Manager and Treaſurer of the ſaid Theatres, ſo far as to be preſent at the taking the Accounts and Profits of the ſaid Theatres, and to be Keeper of the Caſh, that in either or both the laſt two mentioned Stations, the ſaid *Benjamin Victor*, ſhall be entitled unto, and ſhall have and receive the whole Iſſues and clear Profits of a Play on ſome one Night to be named and appointed by the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* in the Month of *March* (over and above the aforeſaid yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds) the ſaid Benefit Play to be one that ſhall at that Time be ready in the Company, but to be clear of all Expences, and the ſaid Night to be previous to the Commencement of the Benefit Plays uſually

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uſually granted to the ſeveral reſpective Players employed in the ſaid Theatres.

5thly. And that in Caſe the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan* ſhall at any Time during the Continuance of this Agreement appoint the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* to act as ſole Manager, or Conductor of the ſaid Theatres; that it ſhall be in the Power, and at the Election of the ſaid *Thomas Sheridan* and his Aſſigns, to determine, allot, or appoint, whether the ſaid *Benjamin Victor* ſhall have an adequate Share of the Profits ariſing from the Receipts as aforeſaid, or one Night's clear Profit of the Houſe as aforeſaid, ſo as ſuch Determination, Allotment, and Appointment, be made by the ſaid *Sheridan* at the Beginning of each Seaſon, any thing herein contained to the Contrary thereof in any wiſe whatſoever notwithſtanding.

And,

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And, *Laſtly*. For the true Performance of theſe Articles, the ſaid Parties do hereby for themſelves, their Repreſentatives, Heirs, Executors, Adminiſtrators, and Aſſigns, bind themſelves the one to the other, in the Sum of five hundred Pounds each. In Witneſs whereof, the ſaid Parties have hereunto ſet their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year within written.

THOMAS SHERIDAN.

BENJAMIN VICTOR.

Signed, ſealed, and delivered in the Preſence of

Gorges Edmond Howard.

C. *Huddleſton.*

When the Ceremonies and due Forms of Law were all adjuſted, Mr. *Sheridan* began, with his uſual Spirit, to employ Mr. *Lewis* (a good Scene and Portrait Painter then in *Dublin*)

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Dublin) to paint three or four Sets of Scenes which were much wanted, and to decorate the Theatre. Several expenſive Alterations were made in the Wardrobe, which our two Years Uſe had not a little impaired.

When the Day was appointed for opening the Theatre, though, as I have already obſerved, many ſufficient Blows had been given to that Monſter, PARTY, who was generally reported to be dead and buried; yet, that malevolent Spirit inherent in human Nature, will not fail to give Pain to the Perſon who was once the Mark of public Reſentment. Thus, as the Time drew near of Mr. *Sheridan*'s expected Appearance, it began to be rumoured, that *an Apology would be expected from him on the Stage before he would be permitted to perform:*

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form: And, thus, though no one could aſſign any Reaſon for it, though in Senſe and Reaſon ſomething more than Apology, certain REDRESS and SATISFACTION ought to have been made to him by thoſe Perſons (who were all known) who did that Miſchief to the Scenes; yet, the Words, SHERIDAN *and* APOLOGY were always ecchoed together.

As a full Proof of what I have already obſerved, the firſt Act of the firſt Play (which was always ſome ſlight Comedy without the capital Actor) was performed with the utmoſt Quietneſs and Decorum; and though many might be preſent who wiſhed the Apology might be called for, yet no one had the Spirit to begin, ſo diſconcerted and unſettled were the Spreaders of this general Rumour. But at the opening

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Opening of the ſecond Act, a few young Men in the Pit called out, *Sheridan! Apology!* which was ſeconded by the ſame Number in both the Galleries. Mr. *Dexter* was on the Stage alone, who is remarkable for his modeſt Behaviour: He bowed, and retired, and then came to conſult me, as I happened at that Time to be looking on from behind the Scenes. I deſired him to go on again, and tell them Mr. *Sheridan* was poſitively very ill with a Cold, which confined him to his Apartment, and that he did not doubt, when he was recovered, but he would give them all the Satisfaction they deſired: But this would not content them, they had collected Spirits enough to make a Beginning, which gathered by Degrees to a tolerable Uproar. They inſiſted on *Dexter*'s going to him, (they knew his Apartments were then con-

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tiguous to the Theatre) and to bring them a *poſitive Promiſe* from him. *Dexter* came off again to me, and I told him we would go together to Mr. *Sheridan*, to whom he ſhould relate the Demand of the Audience. We did ſo. The Manager ſeemed greatly diſturbed by the Account *Dexter* gave him, but I told him at once, the Audience had oppoſed the Progreſs of the Play, and would continue that Oppoſition 'till he ſent them a Compliance with their Demand; that he had now no Choice, and that it was the Opinion of every Friend he had in the World that he ought to comply. Upon this, he deſired Mr. *Dexter* to aſſure them that when he was recovered he would make an Apology on the Stage, and that public Notice ſhould be given of it in the Bills and Advertiſements. *Dexter* did ſo, and the Declaration was received with univer-

ſal

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ſal Applauſe. For my own Part, I was glad of this Accident, as I was ſure it would be of Service to Mr. *Sheridan* in every Reſpect; that it would prove like the Reconciliation of Lovers after a Quarrel, and give a ſuitable Spirit to their Meeting.

When we were the next Day together, I told him, ſince they would have an Apology, I would adviſe him to give them the moſt pompous one I could carefully compoſe, and make them pay for it; that they muſt ſuppoſe him to be too much affected on that ſolemn Occaſion to be able to perform any Character that Night, and therefore, I would give extraordinary Notice of it in the play Bills before ſome Comedy that would not, of itſelf, bring Charges. He agreed to this, and about a Week after, when he was perfectly reco-

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vered, the Night was fixed for this *public Apology*, and every Part of the Houſe crouded ſoon after the Doors were open. Thoſe happy few, who are bleſt with Abilities to ſpeak well in a public Aſſembly, muſt be the beſt Judges of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Feelings on this important Occaſion, though his Situation differed greatly from that of the Man who riſes to ſpeak as a Member of that Aſſembly. He was to appear ſingly before a thouſand People, and to apologize for his own Miſconduct; but he was equal to this arduous Taſk. When the Curtain drew up, he advanced to the Centre of the Stage with a Paper in his Hand, fearing (in that unavoidable Confuſion) to truſt entirely to his Memory. It was the Opinion of ſome of the beſt Judges I converſed with, that no Man within their Obſervation ever appeared before the Public with

with ſo much Addreſs, or ſpoke to the Paſſions with ſuch Propriety. Tears guſhed from the Eyes of ſeveral of his male Auditors. After his Apology was over, and his Pardon having been ſigned by the loudeſt Acclamation, he had begun to retire; he advanced again, and with broken, fault'ring, Accents, ſpoke as follows. "*Your Goodneſs to me at this important* "*Criſis has ſo deeply affected me, that I want* "*Powers to expreſs myſelf; my future Ac-* "*tions ſhall ſhew my Gratitude.*" He appeared a few Nights after in the Character of *Hamlet* to a crouded Audience, and received the utmoſt Applauſe. The ſame Succeſs attended moſt of his principal Characters; but, though he brought the celebrated Dancers from the Opera in *London*, *Bugiani* and *Maraneſi*, to perform in *Dublin* that Seaſon at a great Price, yet the

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Audiences began to ſlacken for want of a capital Female Actreſs. Having been diſappointed in the expected Abilities of a young Lady, new to the Stage, whom the Manager engaged in *London*, and finding his Miſtake too late, he was attentive to every Auxiliary that offered to give ſome Help to a failing Seaſon; and a very fortunate one preſented itſelf. That enterprizing, celebrated, firſt-rate Genius, Mr. Foote, wrote to the Manager to give him Notice of his Deſire to bend his Courſe, and finiſh that Campaign with him in *Dublin*. This offer was wiſely embraced, and the Event was of Advantage to both Parties.

About the Month of *March*, the Report began to be credited, that the Agents for Mr. *Barry* were actually near ſigning with the Proprietors of the Muſick-Hall in

Crow-

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Crow-ſtreet, for their Property there, to *build a new Theatre.* Mr. *Sheridan* had frequent Converſations with me on that Subject, and ſoon prevailed on me to follow my Inclination of viſiting *London*, to endeavour to perſuade Mr. *Barry* from the raſh Enterprize of building a new Houſe, ſince he might have the united Theatres on his his own Terms, and to obſerve to him that inconteſtable Fact, that a *Monopoly* in a great City was of more Worth to a Manager than any other Conſideration whatever.

As ſoon as the Weather was favourable, about the twentieth of *April*, I left *Dublin* on that Account, with Intent, at the ſame time, to engage Mrs. *Gregory* and Mrs. *Hamilton.* At my firſt Interview with Mr. *Barry*, I informed him of the advantageous Terms on which he might become ſole Manager

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of the united Theatres of *Aungier-ſtreet* and *Smock-alley*, if he had any Exceptions to a Patnerſhip with Mr. *Sheridan*; and by that Means the Scheme for building the new Theatre might be prevented. I muſt here do the Juſtice to Mr. *Barry* to declare, that, at this firſt Propoſal, he convinced me (by the Papers he ſhewed me) that it came too late: But Mr. *Sheridan*, in his *Appeal to the Public*, publiſhed ſome Months after, in page 38, ſays, " Upon ſome re-
" markable Events, as ſoon as the leaſt
" Dawn appeared of his being able to re-
" turn with any Proſpect of Succeſs, he
" determined to re-aſſume his Employ-
" ment; and in order to ſecure as good
" Entertainment to the Town as poſſible,
" he waited on Mr. *Barry*, in Company
" with a Gentleman, a common Friend to
" both, and made him Overtures of all
" Kinds

" Kinds to engage him for the next Sea-
" ſon in the Undertaking; at the ſame
" Time telling him, that he ſhould not
" continue upon the Stage above a Year
" or two at moſt, and in that Caſe, it
" ſhould be Mr. *Barry*'s own Fault if his
" Station there was not as eligible as he
" could wiſh. Mr. *Sheridan* then propoſed
" to engage him at a certain Salary, or to
" admit him to a Share of the Profits, and
" afterwards to lett the Theatre to him.
" Before they parted, Mr. *Barry* ſeemed
" inclined to come into ſome one of theſe
" Propoſals, promiſed to conſider of the
" Point, and in a few Days to call on Mr.
" *Sheridan* and let him know the reſt of his
" Thoughts; but he neither called, nor
" ever afterwards ſpoke to him on the
" Subject."

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It muſt be remembered, that theſe Propoſals from Mr. *Sheridan* to Mr. *Barry* (which muſt be admitted to be fact, as they were never contradicted) were made above two Years before my Viſit in *April*, 1758. Therefore, it appears clearly, that the new Theatre in *Crow-Street*, was erected after mature Deliberation, and had the Preference to the Manager's Propoſals.

As my firſt Buſineſs with Mr. *Barry* was ſoon over, I applied to Mrs. *Gregory* and Mrs. *Hamilton*, and after a Negotiation of ſeven Weeks (as the Demands of thoſe Ladies ſo far exceeded what we had ſettled, and indeed all Imagination) the Articles were ſigned for Mrs. *Gregory* at the moderate Price of five hundred, and Mrs. *Hamilton* at four hundred Pounds.

Mrs.

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Mrs. *Gregory*'s Article was nothing more than a Paper which I drew up, containing the Condition of the Agreement, and ſigned by us both. We had a mutual Confidence in each other; and though I was, then, acting only as Attorney for Mr. *Sheridan*, Mrs. *Gregory* could ſafely depend on me as Guarantee for the exact Performance of what we had agreed on. Mrs. *Hamilton* had a Husband, a Gentleman I was a Stranger to; and therefore, the Attorney was neceſſary to draw an Article in Form; ſuch as would bind the Parties by Law, in a Penalty of five hundred Pounds, and a remarkable Circumſtance followed, which ſhewed the Neceſſity of theſe exact Proceedings..

This

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This Article was ſigned by all the Parties, and executed in *June*; and long before the Time neceſſary for Mrs. *Hamilton* to ſet out on her Journey, having had Terms offered her, which ſhe and Mr. *Hamilton* better approved of, to remain in *London*, he wrote me an Apology for his Wife's not coming to *Dublin* to perform her Article, and hoped her not coming would be of no Diſadvantage to the Manager. I conſulted Mr. *Sheridan* on this Letter, and wrote an Anſwer back directly, obſerving, that we, on that Side the Water, were drove to the utmoſt Diſtreſs by theſe Diſappointments; and as all the Comedies muſt ſuffer, which Mrs. *Hamilton* was engaged to ſupport, he might depend on it, if ſhe did not come, he would be proſecuted on the Article. To this he replied,

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replied, that he was ſorry if her not coming was of any real Diſadvantage; that he was eaſy about any Proſecution, as he was indemnified from any Danger at Law. Accordingly, the Article was put into the Hands of Mr. *Palmer*, (who was then in *Dublin*) an Attorney of great Worth and Ability, of the *Temple*, who proſecuted the Affair through two or three of the Courts, and after the Delay of three Years, recovered the five hundred Pounds Penalty, with Coſts.

Mr. *Barry*, Mr. *Macklin*, and I left *London* much about the ſame Time. We met at *Holyhead*, and landed from the ſame Packet-boat at *Dunlary*, the latter End of *June*; and ſoon after their Arrival in *Dublin*, the Walls of the late Muſick-Hall in *Crow-ſtreet*, and ſome adjacent Buildings,

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Buildings, were levelled to the Ground, to lay the Foundation of the New Theatre. *A Foundation of Misfortune to many!*

If my old Friend, Mr. *Cibber*, could enlarge ſo much againſt two Rival Theatres in the great City of *London*, and produce ſo many Inſtances to ſupport his Argument, what can be ſaid in Defence of Rival Theatres in *Dublin*, where it has been admitted, there are not above four Audiencies? He ſays, "That two Sets of Ac-
"tors, tolerated in the ſame Place, have con-
"ſtantly ended in the Corruption of the
"Theatre; of which the auxiliary Enter-
"tainments, that have ſo barbarouſly ſup-
"plied the Defects of *weak Action*, have, for
"ſome Years paſt, been a flagrant Inſtance;
"Things even worſe than childiſh Panto-
"mimes, ſet off with the Decoration of
"Scenes,

" Scenes, Habits, Voices, and Dan-
" cers."

It is no Wonder this powerful Supply of *Sight* and *Sound* ſhould grow too hard for *Senſe* and *ſimple Nature*, when it is conſidered how many more People there are that can *ſee* and *hear*, than *think* and *judge*. " Taſte and Faſhion (ſays Mr. *C.*) have al-
" ways had Wings, and fly from one pub-
" lic Spectacle to another ſo wantonly,
" that a famous Puppet-Shew in *Saliſbury-*
" *Change*, ſo far diſtreſt the two celebrated
" Companies (the Kings and the Duke of
" *York*'s) that they were reduced to peti-
" tion the King againſt it; nor ought we
" perhaps to think this ſtrange, when, if
" I miſtake not, *Terence* himſelf reproaches
" the *Roman* Auditors of his Time with
" the like Fondneſs for the *Funambuli*, the
" Rope-Dancers." This

This Remark has been long obvious, *that nothing now but Variety can ſatisfy a* Dublin *Audience.* Juſt before the Opening of every Seaſon, the conſtant Queſtion is, *Who have you got now?* which ſeems to foretell, that a very diſagreeable Fate muſt attend an enjoy'd Charmer, let the Merit be ever ſo conſiderable. Every vain, ſilly Auditor affects the Critic, and values his Judgment on being able to find out the Faults of the Performers, but never makes the leaſt Attempt at diſcovering their Excellencies. Theſe are the People that are never to be ſatisfied but with *Novelty*, and that Novelty can never be ſupported but by an annual Change; which, though of the fineſt Flowers, are to bloom but for a Seaſon.

The

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The Theatre was opened (as uſual) at the Beginning of *October* 1757; ſome ſhort Time before, Mrs. *Gregory* had changed her Name by Marriage to *Fitzhenry*; nothing material occurred this Seaſon. The Manager and this Actreſs were well pair'd; and though he had never ſeen her on the Stage but once, and that in a Comedy Part, which made no favourable Impreſſion, it was not long before he was a Convert to her Abilities in Tragedy.

His GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD was our new LORD LIEUTENANT this Seaſon, who honoured the Theatre with his Patronage; the DUKE and DUTCHESS were conſtantly there once a Week, and ſometimes twice. This fortunate Attachment to the Theatre not only gave the Manager the

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the Proſpect of a ſucceſsful Seaſon, but raiſed his Hopes of obtaining Redreſs againſt the Dangers that began to threaten from the growing Building in *Crow-ſtreet*. Many and various were the Schemes for preventing the new intended Theatre, and ſome were carried into Execution. The Caſe of the Proprietors of the united Theatres of *Aungier-ſtreet* and *Smock-alley* was printed, and delivered to all the Members of Parliament, ſetting forth the great Expence they had been at in building and compleating two magnificent Theatres, and praying that the Number of Theatres might be limited by Parliament, as in *London*; and as two were thought ſufficient for that great City, that one might be fixed for *Dublin*.

But

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But it was ſoon demanded by the Opponents to this Caſe, with what Decency the Proprietors of *Smock-alley* Theatre could appear in their Part of this Prayer to Parliament? About the Year 1728, that ſuperb Theatre in *Aungier-ſtreet* was built by a large Subſcription of the Nobility and Gentry; and had not been occupied above four or five Years, before another Subſcription was opened for building a new Theatre in *Smock-alley*, on the Spot where the firſt formerly ſtood. It was therefore thought ſomething immodeſt for thoſe Gentlemen who erected a ſecond Theatre twenty-four Years ago, in Oppoſition to a noble one juſt built, to exclaim againſt a Crime they had themſelves committed, and under more aggravating Circumſtances. However, as many of the leading

ing Members of Parliament were Subſcribers to the new Building in *Crow-ſtreet*, and many more Well-wiſhers to it, the Caſe of the Proprietors of the united Theatres remained neglected and unpitied.

The Manager began very ſoon to ſee the Vanity of theſe Attempts, and at laſt to turn his Thoughts properly to an Oppoſition; and, like a good General, to think of enlifting able Troops, repairing his Fortifications, and laying in every Neceſſary for a vigorous Defence againſt this intended Invaſion.

He began in *March*, juſt before the Entrance of the Benefits, and made his firſt Application to Mrs. *Fitzhenry*. He told her, and the whole Company, that it was high Time to ſee who would ſtand by him.

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him. He offered to article with her, at the Salary ſhe then had, *five hundred*; but finding her demur, he offered her ſix hundred Pounds, well knowing, without her, it would be unſafe for him to article with a large Body of People, many of whom had great Salaries, and were only uſeful. I am ſorry to add, that being under irreſiſtible Influence; and perhaps feeling the happy Conſequence of Rival Theatres and contending Managers, ſhe gave a Reply to his Propoſal, which he underſtood to be keeping herſelf open to Offers from the other Side; and therefore, he declared too raſhly againſt entering into Articles with any one; upon which, Mr. *Dexter* and Mr. *King* went off, and ſigned with Mr. *Barry*'s Attorney directly.

Thus

Thus was the firſt fatal Blow given by Mrs. *Fitzhenry*. Had ſhe ſtood firm to the Cauſe, the Manager muſt have entered into Articles with every Member of his Company; which, with the Addition of Mr. *Digges* and Mrs. *Ward* from *Edinburgh*, would have formed a Force too ſtrong for any Powers that could be brought againſt them; becauſe, though Mr. *Barry* and Mr. *Woodward* are excellent, yet even the *London* Theatres could not ſpare them a Company half equal in Merit. Mr. *Barry*'s Characters (eſpecially thoſe he moſt excels in) require an accompliſhed, firſt-rate Actreſs to perform with him. Without a capital Female he muſt be injured; and Mr. *Woodward*'s Comedies muſt all ſuffer, (as they did) for want of Gentlemen and Ladies, without whom Comedies (ſome few

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few excepted) muſt prove the worſt Entertainment that can be exhibited.

This ſudden Loſs of *King* and *Dexter* alarmed the Manager. He began too late to alter his Reſolution, and ſigned a general Article with all his Company, and ſeemed determined on a reſolute Oppoſition; at leaſt, ſuch were my Thoughts of him. And when the Seaſon was over, and we met in *London*, every Meeting was to purſue ſome Step that might promote that Deſign; after ſeveral Meetings and Conſultations, the following Plan was agreed on and ſettled, *viz.* That immediate Meaſures ſhould be taken to engage Mr. *Digges* and Mrs. *Ward* to be in *Dublin*, for the Opening of the next Seaſon; that Mr. *Theophilus Cibber* ſhould be engaged to ſtrengthen the Comedies, on which

which were to be our ſole Dependance for the firſt three Months; and thoſe to be aided by Pantomime, and all the exotic Entertainments that could be met with. Accordingly, we applied to the Maſter of *Sadler*'s Wells, who had, of late Years, exhibited ſeveral Pantomimes at great Expence, and with general Applauſe. Of him Mr. *Sheridan* purchaſed a compleat Pantomime, the Story, Muſick, Scenes, and Machinery, all compleat; and his Carpenter was hired, at the ſame Time, to ſet out with the whole Work, to fit it to our Stage. The Pantomime was purchaſed of Mr. *Roſoman* for one hundred Pounds, (which he proved coſt him five) and the Conveyance of it to *Dublin* thirty odd Pounds more; the Carpenter was to have twenty Pounds, beſides travelling Charges. So that the fixing the whole on the *Dublin* Stage,

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Stage, came at leaſt to two hundred Pounds. *Maddox*, the celebrated Wire-Dancer, was articled with, at the ſame Time, for two hundred Pounds, to be the *Harlequin*, and to exhibit his Improvements on the Wire. And thus, with *Cibber*, *Digges*, and *Ward* added to the Company, and the Auxiliaries from *Sadler's Wells*, was I to open the Campaign in *October* 1758, againſt the New Theatre in *Crow-ſtreet*; and Mrs. *Fitzhenry* (who was a Well-wiſher to our Cauſe) was to be engaged as ſoon as I arrived in *Dublin*, and not to perform but with Mr. *Sheridan*, who was to join us at *Chriſtmas*.

Thus Comedies, aided by Pantomime, *&c.* were to be oppoſed to the firſt furious Fire of the Enemy; and when that was ſuppoſed to be ſpent and over, our great

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Cannon were to be mounted; and, without all Doubt, if *Sheridan* and *Fitzhenry*, *Digges* and *Ward*, had performed in the ſame Tragedies *, there would have been ſuch a Force of acting, as muſt have diſtanced the Efforts of *Crow-ſtreet*; becauſe, as I have already obſerved, the Dependence of the new Managers muſt then have been on an Actreſs taken from the *York* Company, who was the beſt they could poſſibly obtain, though no Endeavours were wanting on their Part for a better.

Thus, as ASSISTANT MANAGER, agreeable to the ſecond Paragraph in my foregoing Article, and inveſted with all the neceſſary legal Powers by Letter of Attorney, to make ſuch Engagements as I

* As in the *Diſtreſs'd Mother*, the *Pyrrhus* and *Oreſtes*, the *Andromache* and *Hermione*.

ſhould

ſhould think proper, and ſign all Articles in Mr. *Sheridan*'s Name, did I arrive in *Dublin* the 14th Day of *October*, and was obliged to open the Theatre on the 22d for the Performance of a Government Play, in Honour of the Anniverſary of his Majeſty's Coronation.

At my Arrival, I was ſurprized to find the new Theatre (which was to be ready, and compleated in the Summer) had ſeveral Workmen in it on the 14th of *October*, and *Monday* the 22d was advertiſed by them for the Opening; the Night we were obliged to open the Theatre-Royal, and as the King's Company of Comedians, to perform our firſt Play.

They opened with the Comedy of *She wou'd and She wou'd not*, or *the Kind Impoſtor*,

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to a Houſe about half full; and more could not be expected, as the Name of all the Performers, except *King*, were unknown; and the Report ſpread through the whole City the next Day was univerſal in the Diſfavour of all the new Actors. The ſecond Night was the *Beggar's Opera*, which was repeated (for their third Play) to little more than twenty Pounds. This plainly proved, that the Novelty of a new Theatre, and new *nameleſs* Performers would do nothing in *Dublin*. This Diſappointment brought the Managers forward much ſooner than they intended; and when *they* performed, the People muſt have wanted Taſte indeed not to have crouded thither.

Soon after my Arrival in *Dublin*, Mr. *Brown* (late Maſter of the *Bath* Company) came

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came to ſee me. Mr. *Sheridan*, before we parted in *London*, told me he had received Letters from that Gentleman, ſignifying his Deſire to perform in the Theatre-Royal the approaching Seaſon; in Mr. *Sheridan*'s Anſwer he referred Mr. *Brown* to me to ſettle that Affair at my Arrival. We did ſo; and that new Actor proved a very fortunate Acquiſition. His firſt Appearance was in the *Copper Captain* in the *Rule a Wife* of *Beaumont* and *Fletcher*; and though he met with that certain Fate of a Stranger, of bringing very few People to ſee him at his firſt Performance, yet thoſe who were preſent gave him univerſal Applauſe. And his intrinſic Merit in that Character was fully proved; his firſt Night brought no more than twelve Pounds, his ſecond Time of performing it twenty-eight, and the third Time more;

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till at laſt (as the *Eſtifania* was alſo well ſupported by Mrs. *Kennedy)* it became the only eſtabliſhed Comedy of the Seaſon. He was well received in *Benedict*, *Don John*, in the *Chances*, and all Parts of that Caſt; but I could not agree with that Gentleman about his Abilities for Tragedy; and my not conſenting to his performing ſeveral of the capital Characters diſobliged him; but perhaps the Miſtake was on my Side.

I doubt not but my *Engliſh* Reader, who never ſaw this Actor, or perhaps in a diſadvantageous Light, may wonder at this Encomium from me, who muſt have ſeen, and conſequently admired the late Mr. *Wilks* in the *Copper Captain*. I had frequently that Pleaſure, and was amongſt the Number of his Admirers; and I do alſo declare Mr. *Brown* to be the beſt I have

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have ſeen, ſince the Death of that inimitable Actor, in that Character; and yet I muſt prove myſelf ſenſible of his Fault. I make no Doubt but *Brown* has often ſeen the preſent great Actor of *London* in *Benedict*, and *Don Felix*, who raiſes Laughter and Delight in his Auditors from his *pointed Pauſes*; but then he has Judgment to direct him, to a Second, as to the proper Time to continue them. Pauſes are dangerous Intervals, if the Circumſtance and Situation of the Character does not demand them; as in the Comedy of the *Wonder*, in that entertaining Scene between *Don Felix* and *Violante*, where the Pauſe is near four Minutes; but then, the marking Eye, and every correſponding Limb, ſupplies the Want of Words ſo effectually, as to create repeated Laughs, from the Looks and Actions of that judicious Actor.

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Now, Mr. *Brown*, in the *Copper Captain*, points all his Pauſes extremely well, but he continues them too long, nay, ſometimes to ſuch a Degree of Tedioufneſs, as to diſguſt thoſe that were at firſt delighted.

About the ſecond or third Week Mr. *Digges* and Mrs. *Ward* arrived in *Dublin*; which gave us and our Friends great Spirits, as we were then alſo in the daily Expectation of the Arrival of the Ship with Mr. *Theophilus Cibber* and our Auxiliaries from *England*.

But alas! our Misfortunes began from this very Period; Fate was againſt us; to ſee the Changes of this ſublunary World; where fortunate Circumſtances ariſe to ſome from the Miſeries and Deſtruction of others.

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others. After a very dreadful ſtormy Night, a Rumour prevailed, that the Ship called the *Dublin*, Captain *White*, from *Parkgate*, full of Paſſengers, was loſt; and after the painful Interval of ten or twelve Days, it appeared by two Gentlemen juſt arrived in the Packetboat from *Holyhead*, (one of whom was my Acquaintance) that they had the Happineſs to quit that Ship in the River *Dee* when under Sail, finding it crouded with Paſſengers; that they ſaw *Cibber*, *Maddox*, and all our People on Board; that ſhe was an old Ship new vampt, and had but three Sailors and one Boy beſides the Maſter; that the Storm drove her to the North; that ſhe paſſed the *Iſle of Man*, on the Coaſt of which ſome Things were found, ſuppoſed to be blown from her Decks; but it was certain ſhe foundered on the Coaſt of *Scot-*

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land, where the Body of Mrs. *Ford*, Wife to Mr. *Ford* on *Cork-hill* (known to be on Board that Ship) was caſt on Shore, with a Cheſt of Cloaths and Books belonging to poor *Cibber*. There was a noble Earl, with his youngeſt Son, and about ſeventy Paſſengers, on Board this fatal Ship. On account of the unhappy Lord, a Veſſel and Servants were ſent off to ſearch along the Coaſt of *Scotland*, and they returned to *Dublin* with many fatal Proofs of the Wreck. As I had the Honour of being acquainted with the preſent Earl, he was pleaſed to permit me to wait on him, to ſee the ſad Tokens his Meſſengers had brought; and among them were ſome Papers, of no Worth, belonging to *Cibber*, and a Part in a Play, with his Name wrote on it; the Sight of them afflicted me. It was I that perſuaded him into that fatal Engagement.

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Engagement. Poor *Cibber!* He had long felt the Blaſts of Adverſity; his Life was tempeſtuous, and his Fate to end it in a Storm! Our Loſs of *Maddox* was almoſt irretrievable; becauſe, with our *Harlequin*, went the Muſic, and the Buſineſs and Plot of the Pantomime; as alſo among the Geniuſſes, the Man who played on the twelve Bells faſtened to his Head, Hands, and Feet, *&c. &c. &c.*

But however, Difficulties muſt be ſurmounted, and one favourable Circumſtance yet remained. Mr. *Roſoman*'s Carpenter, who made the Machinery, and was to fit it to our Stage, got down to the Water-Side at *Parkgate* about three Hours after the above-mentioned fatal Ship ſailed with *Maddox* and his Acquaintance; and after lamenting his Misfortune of miſſing that Paſſage,

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Paſſage, he was obliged to make his Way through *Wales* to *Holyhead*, (being puſhed as to Time) and arrived in *Dublin* ſome Days before the Diſcovery of the Loſs of that Ship. With his Aſſiſtance I ſet all Hands to work, collected the Plot and Buſineſs of the Scenes as well as we could from this Man, got a new *Harlequin*, adapted Muſic to the Scenes, and had the Pantomime performed in three Weeks, which was received with great Applauſe. I believe I have no where informed my Reader, that the Scenes, Machinery, *&c.* of this Pantomime, were packed up in rough Caſes by this Carpenter, and put on Board a Veſſel in the River *Thames*, in the Month of *September*, bound for *Dublin*, where ſhe arrived in four Days; a Paſſage ſeldom made in leſs than a Month.

Mr.

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Mr. *Digges* and Mrs. *Ward* performed a few Days after their Arrival, and were univerſally congratulated. As they were the Originals in the Characters of *Douglas* and Lady *Randolph* in Mr. *Hume*'s new Tragedy, at the Theatre in *Edinburgh*, where it firſt appeared, I ſoon turned my Thoughts on bringing it forward, as the only Tragedy we could venture on, with any Proſpect of Safety and Succeſs; the *Scotch* Muſic for the Overture, and Pieces between the Acts, which Mr. *Digges* brought with him, proved an agreeable Decoration. When our intended Performance of *Douglas* appeared in the News-Papers, there came out an Advertiſement in the following Words: "The Tragedy of "*Douglas* will very ſpeedily be performed "at the New Theatre in *Crow-ſtreet*; the

"Part

" Part of *Douglas* by Mr. BARRY, and " the Part of Lady *Randolph* by Mrs. " FITZHENRY." But, alas; being too poor to be frightened, our *Douglas* was performed, and repeated with ſo much Succeſs, that its Fame began to be the univerſal Table-talk; and it was acted nine Nights to the greateſt Audiencies we had that Seaſon; which was no ſmall Triumph on our Side, as this Play never appeared at the New Theatre, agreeable to that Promiſe made to the Public.

As we were advanced towards the End of *November*, I made ſeveral Attempts to engage Mrs. *Fitzhenry*, who, in that precarious Situation, demanded *Security* to be given her for the Payment of the five hundred Pounds, which ſhe urged, (and indeed with ſome Appearance of Reaſon) to lay

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lay the ſtronger Injunction on Mr. *Sheridan*, when he heard his Friends were bound for him, to come over at *Chriſtmas*, agreeable to his own Plan. I was ſo warm in this Affair, as to ſolicit and ſucceed with three Perſons, of Worth and Conſequence in that City, to conſent to be bound to that Lady for the Payment of her five hundred Pounds Salary. And juſt as the Bond was near executing, Mr. *Sheridan* was ſo much incenſed at Mrs. *Fitzhenry*'s making that unprecedented Demand on a Manager, (and indeed a fatal one, unleſs attended with unuſual Circumſtances, as in this Caſe) that he wrote a Letter, in which he not only ſhewed his Reſentment to her Demand of Security, but expreſſed his Doubts of his being able to be in *Dublin* that Seaſon as he intended. This Letter, of courſe, drove Mrs. *Fitzhenry* to our

Opponents

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Opponents in the New Theatre, whoſe Friends were ſoliciting her to be with them; and in Haſte the Wax was preſſed at the Bottom of an Article with the new Managers. Not the fatal Day before the breaking up of a long conteſted Siege, and ſurrendering the Town to the Enemy, could be more diſtreſsful than that Day, when it was publicly known that *Fitzhenry* had ſigned with the Managers of *Crow-ſtreet*, and that Mr. *Sheridan* would not come over to the Relief of the poor Theatre-Royal! not only our Company appeared Planet-ſtruck, but all our Friends in the City hung down their Heads, and gave us up for loſt Wretches.

But what were my Feelings at that Juncture? Who was not only loaded with the Diſtreſſes of Numbers, loſt the Aſſiſtance from

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from *England* by a cruel Storm, thought myſelf deſerted by my Friend, and left ſurrounded by many Dangers: For the *worthleſs* Part of the Tradeſmen, and all the *mean*, *baſe* Perſons in the Company, upon the Knowledge of Mr. *Sheridan*'s not coming over, immediately began to turn their Thoughts on making me their Mark for Payment. This they did, though they all well knew how I was then ſituated in the Theatre. That was the third Winter ſince Mr. *Sheridan* was reſtored as SOLE MANAGER; and they knew the two preceding Seaſons, their Bills were all delivered into the Office, and Receipts given in his Name alone.

But we had one remaining Reſourſe left (which I forgot to mention) as a Part of the formidable Plan made in the Summer

in

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in *London*; which was, that the Managers of *Drury-Lane* Theatre, had been ſo good as to give Leave of Abſence to Miſs *Macklin*, the latter End of the Month of *April*, to accompany her Father, who was to come over to us, to perform with his Daughter a Dozen Nights, and to exhibit ſome new Piece of his Writing, that would have been of undoubted Service to us, as well as to themſelves, and a parting Blow to our Opponents.

This our dernier Reſort, I acquainted our deſponding Company with; and told them, I would bring on their Benefits at the End of *January*, in the moſt advantageous Seaſon for them; and as the Benefits would carry us through *February* and *March*, we ſhould by that Means, keep a clear Stage for the Reception of this ſubſequent

ſequent Aid of Mr. *Macklin* and his Daughter.

We had, during this unfortunate Seaſon, ſeveral bad Audiences, which were to be expected; but that ſo many ſhould happen at the new Theatre, their *firſt Winter*, was a Subject of ſome Aſtoniſhment, to all unacquainted with *Dublin*, and a Diſappointment the new Managers could not eaſily diſpenſe with, when their great Undertaking was properly conſidered.

When our Benefit Plays began to be advertiſed, (as many in our Company had great Intereſt in the City, which was well known) the Friends of the new Managers thought of a very happy Expedient, to defend them againſt the Injury they muſt have unavoidably ſuſtained; and that was,

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to apply to ſome leading Ladies of Quality, to fix on their Nights, beſpeak their Plays, and make an Intereſt for all Parts of the Houſe, particularly by Pit and Gallery Tickets, among their Tradeſmen, as for a diſtinct Benefit. This was done, by which means it was common to find ſome Woman of Quality, making an Intereſt for HER PLAY, at the new Theatre, with the ſame Zeal that the poor Player was exerting himſelf at our Houſe, on the ſame Night, to ſupport his Wife and Children!

A pleaſant Friend of mine, ſupplied me with the following Anecdote at that Juncture, which, I dare ſay, my Reader will thank me for. That Gentleman's Curioſity led him to one of theſe *Ladies Plays*, and the Scene which he ſaw acted in the Box-

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Box-Room,* well rewarded him! which was as follows.

The great Lady of the Night, goes early into the Box-Room, to receive her Company. This Lady had ſent out Pit and Gallery Tickets to all her *Trades-People*, with *Threatenings* of the Loſs of her Cuſtom, if they did not diſpoſe of them: And the Concern ſhe was under, when the Time was approaching for the drawing up the Curtain, at the Sight of a thin Pit and Galleries, introduced the following Entertainment. The Lady was

* The Theatres of *London* have only a Lobby before the Boxes; but thoſe in *Dublin* are built with a commodious *Box-Room*, particularly that in *Aungier-Street*, which is finely ornamented, and large enough to hold all the Company that can ſit in the Boxes; from whence they all immediately retire at the End of the Play, as to a Drawing-Room, where they converſe with each other, till they are called to their Carriages.

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ready to faint; and after Smelling-Bottles were applied, ſhe cryed out "*ſhe was* "*ruined and undone! She would never be* "*able to look dear Mr.* B—— *in the Face* "*any more, after ſuch a ſhocking Diſap-* "*pointment!*" At many of theſe repeated Lamentations, the Box-Keeper advanced, and ſaid, "*I beg your Ladyſhip will not be* "*ſo diſheartened; indeed your Ladyſhip's Pit* "*will mend, and your Ladyſhip's Galleries* "*too, will certainly mend, before the Play* "*begins.*" At which the Lady cry'd, "Out "you naſty, flattering, Fellow! I tell "you I'm undone! Ruin'd and undone! "that's all! But I'll be reveng'd; I am "reſolved I'll *pay off*, —— no, —— I'll "*turn off*, all my ſaucy Tradeſmen To-"morrow Morning."

Moſt

Moſt of our Benefits proved proſperous; there were taken to twenty-eight Benefit Plays, above three thouſand Pounds; though eight or nine were failing Nights, as they were taken by Perſons without Merit or Intereſt. This worthleſs Part of the Company, were they, who took a very mean Method to ſerve themſelves, and that was by complaining to thoſe they addreſſed, (by way of moving their Compaſſion) that *they had received no Salary*, though there was eleven hundred and ſixty-eight Pounds ten Shillings divided amongſt them, according to their Rank of Salary, before the Commencement of the Benefits; as appears by the Books now in my Friend Mr. *Bradley*'s Hands, all properly examined, and ſigned, by Mr. *John Knowles*, and Mr. *James Bardin*; Perſons appointed to that Office by Mr. *Sheridan*: And as every Benefit was ſettled, as uſual, at forty Pounds Expence to the

Actor,

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Actor, I took but ſixteen Pounds in Caſh, to pay the Contingencies, as Muſic, Servants, &c. and allowed each Perſon twenty-four Pounds of their Arrears of Salary.

And from what was done under the dreadful Misfortunes, and Diſappointments that have been already deſcribed, it muſt be obvious to every common Capacity, that Success muſt have attended a contrary Fortune; and then every Engagement would have been fulfilled, which every Man has an undoubted Right to.

It is however an unqueſtionable Fact, that Mr. *Sheridan* intended to come over that Seaſon to the Aſſiſtance of his Company, when he promiſed them; becauſe in conſequence of that, he put himſelf to great Inconvenience in the Summer, to advance

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advance the Money neceſſary for the purchaſing and forwarding the Scenery and Machinery of the Pantomime, and other relative Expences: And beſides that Loſs, by his not coming, he knew a loſing Seaſon muſt be the Conſequence; therefore that he was prevented, by the unhappy Situation of his Affairs, from coming to ſerve himſelf as well as his Company, muſt be called his *Misfortune*, and not his *Fault*. No Man was more hurt than I, by that Diſappointment, nor had more ſeeming Reaſon to reſent it; but when I was informed of the true Cauſe, I lamented, that a Man of his Abilities, ſhould meet with ſuch hard Fate.

At the Enterance of the Month of *March*, I began to renew my Correſpondence with Mr. *Macklin*, about his coming over

with his Daughter, to our Aſſiſtance, as was agreed on when we parted in *London*; but after the Exchange of two or three Letters, I received one to inform me of his determined Reſolution, *not to come*; the chief Reaſon aſſigned, was his Daughter's ill Health, which made it unſafe for her to take ſuch a Journey and Voyage.

This laſt Diſappointment compelled me to put the Orders I received from Mr. *Sheridan*, about that Time, into Execution, and to *diſſolve the Company from acting any longer on his Account, and to cloſe the Seaſon.* This was done about the 20th of *April*; but as the whole Company were ſuppoſed to be Sufferers, by Arrears of Salary due to them, the Manager judged it neceſſary (as he declared in his Letter) to offer it to their Conſideration, if they thought proper

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to proceed on their own Account, for a few Plays more, they had his Leave; which Favour they accepted of, as appeared by the following Advertiſement, ſigned by all the principal Men and Women in the Company.

THEATRE-ROYAL,

May 2, 1759.

" As Mr. *Sheridan*, by a Letter to Mr. " *Victor*, cloſed his Intereſt in this Seaſon's " Performance, on *Friday* laſt the 27th " of *April*: We, whoſe Names are under- " written, have determined to perform for " our joint Profit, through this preſent " Term. We cannot addreſs the Public " on this Occaſion, without firſt expreſſing " our moſt grateful Thanks for the con- " ſtant Inſtances of Favour and Protection, " which we have experienced, through

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" the whole Courſe of the Seaſon: At a
" Time alſo, when every Endeavour was
" uſed, and every theatrical Art exerted,
" to oppoſe a Set of Perſons, who were
" unexpectedly deſerted and abandoned.

" Unforeſeen Loſſes will, it is hoped,
" recommend us to the continued Pa-
" tronage of the Town. And we beg
" Leave to aſſure the Public, that it ſhall
" be our Pride and Study to perform the
" enſuing Repreſentations, with as much
" Accuracy and Diligence, now WE ARE
" LEFT TO OUR OWN CONDUCT, as we
" have been compelled to ſuffer Irregu-
" larity and Confuſion, from having been
" ſubjected to A VARIETY OF DISAP-
" POINTMENTS."

W. Digges,

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W. Digges, H. Brown.
J. Sparks.
T. Heaphy.
L. Kennedy.
W. Fred. Glover.
J. Wilder.
T. Ryder.
G. Stayley.
F. Aickin.
J. Watſon.
T. Farrell. R. Hurſt.
S. Ward.
E. Kennedy.
S. Wilder.
M. Philipps.
E. Farrell.
A. Maſon.
E. Glover.
E. Storer.

This pompous Advertiſement (as I was informed) did them no Service. The warm Seaſon was too far advanced, and their Endeavours ended with three or four unſucceſsful Performances.

But before I quit this Subject, I muſt beg my Readers Patience, to do a Piece of

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common Juſtice to my Character, which, I heard, was rudely attacked by ſome Part of the Company, who gave out that I had *promiſed* them a Dividend of the Money, at that Time in my Hands, and *that I had broke that Promiſe*; yet they were forced to acknowledge, by the Receipts produced, that all the Caſh in my Hands, had been paid away, though, no doubt, improperly, as it was not paid to them.

I have often obſerved, that thoſe Men, who are *regardleſs of their own Promiſes*, are moſt ſevere upon others; nay, they catch at Words, when careleſsly, and caſually uttered for their Service, and are ſure to work them into a *Promiſe*.

I *did ſay* (when applied to) *that a Dividend ſhould be made as uſual*; *it was my Intention*;

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tention; ſeveral Dividends had been made: But when I ſaid it, I did not know the Caſh I then held in my Hands, would be the laſt I ſhould receive from the Theatre: Mr. *Macklin*'s determined Letter was not then arrived; I was till then, in Hopes of having the Happineſs of making many more Dividends: But when the unexpected Letter came, which brought his abſolute Refuſal to come over with his Daughter, the whole State of Affairs was then altered; I was then to diſſolve the Company by Order of the Manager; I was then to take the Condition of the *ſuffering Tradeſmen* into Conſideration: Thoſe, whoſe Good-nature had inclined them to give patient Credit to the Theatre, and ſome to the Injury of their Families. Every Performer in the Company, had enjoyed ſeveral Dividends, beſides their *Benefits*, which

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which were then happily over; ſome of the Tradeſmen had not received one Farthing that Seaſon; and I really thought it a Point of Conſcience, and only doing a common Juſtice, to make that *laſt Dividend amongſt them*, and ſome particular *poor Players*, inſtead of the *whole* Company: And thus I found myſelf compelled to alter my *Intention*, though nothing ſhould have forced me to break my *Promiſe*.

And now the Severity of my Fate draws near. The Morning when I left a City, that, by fourteen Years uninterrupted Happineſs, I began to think my own; I muſt confeſs, I landed on my native Country, *England*, with Sorrow; fearing I ſhould never more ſee a People I had long loved; nor re-viſit the Land of HOSPITALITY and true BENEVOLENCE.

END of VOL. I.

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